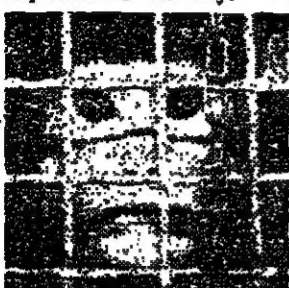


Monday

Brighton... Pearce Wright previews the most popular event in the scientific calendar, the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

... Rock Modern Times dons crepe-soled shoes to venture into the parts that Rock 'n' Roll still reaches.

Man... Spectrum on the sometimes horrifying way in which man exploits the monkey.



... and Superman Is America's foreign policy designed mainly to ensure the reelection of President Reagan?

Downhill... Pat Healy examines in a two-part series the impact of cuts in health service spending.

... Racer European Cup athletics at Crystal Palace.

New wave of rioting in Pakistan

Anti-martial-law protestors tore up 500 yards of railway lines in Pakistan's Sindh province as part of the civil disobedience campaign launched on Sunday. According to opposition sources, police shot dead five rioters and wounded 20 more in fresh fighting in the province.

Kidnap hunt

Police officers in Co. Donegal were hunting a kidnap gang as fears grew for the safety of an informer's wife being held by the Irish National Liberation Army.

Rebel realism

Leaders of US-backed insurgents in Nicaragua admit they cannot win a military victory. In Costa Rica, Nicaraguan guerrillas are causing serious problems for local people.

US recovery

The American economy is recovering faster than expected, according to figures which show that between April and June gross national product expanded at a rate of 9.2 per cent.

Tripoli blast

Thirty people were injured when a car bomb exploded near a hospital in Tripoli, Lebanon, the second blast there in less than a month. In Sidon, 22 bodies were found in a former PLO prison.

Looters held

About 120 people were arrested for looting in Houston and Galveston after Hurricane Alicia struck southern Texas. Damage from the hurricane is estimated at \$600m in the Houston area.

Chess champion

Jonathan Mestel, the Cambridge University player, won the Grieson-Grant British chess championships at Southampton, repeating his triumph of 1976.

Boycott rebuked

Geoffrey Boycott has been reprimanded by Yorkshire for slow scoring against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham last Saturday. He batted for six-and-a-half hours for 140 not out.

Home News	23	Letters	7
Overseas	45	Religion	8
Arts	9	Science	8
Books	10	Services	8
Business	10-15	Sport	15-18
China	2	TV & Radio	19
Costs	8	Theatre, etc	19
Crossword	28	Universities	8
Dial	6	Weather	20
Events	20	With	8

Kinnock likely to block Benn's return to power

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Attempts by the far left to restore Mr Wedgwood Benn to his power base inside the Labour Party are expected to be frustrated by Mr Neil Kinnock after his likely election as leader in October.

The national executive committee (NEC) elections, at the party conference are almost certain to result in gains for the outside or "serious" left, but not enough to give them overall control. Instead the advances made by the right at last year's conference are expected to be reversed and the ascendancy taken by a coalition of the centre-right and soft left, which will uphold Mr Kinnock's personal position.

Far left sources, however, have made clear that they will try to get Mr Benn re-elected to his former post as chairman of the party's home policy committee, which played an important role in the policy decisions which led to the eventual adoption of the most left-wing election manifesto in the party's history.

The position will be vacant as a result of the Post Office Engineering Union's decision not to renominate Mr John Gilling, the present home policy chairman and effective leader of the moderates, for the NEC.

Mr Benn would be assured of the post if he had the support of the soft left, led by Mr Kinnock, but MPs close to the leadership runner believe it highly unlikely that he would back Mr Benn. The two are not close.

A left-wing source said yesterday that "it depends how vindictive Kinnock wants to be". The centre-right does not expect Mr Kinnock to repeat Mr Michael Foot's action of two years ago in supporting Mr Benn for the committee chairmanship when he was in a position to ensure that he did not get it. "Neil will not make that mistake", one MP said yesterday.

But there seems little doubt that the Bennite left will make strides at the conference. The Campaign Group of far left MPs, which broke away from the Tribune Group, and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy are this weekend circulating a slate of candidates for the constituency section of the NEC.

They are backing Mr Eric Heffer for leader, Mr Michael Meacher for deputy, Mr Albert Booth for treasurer, and eight names for the seven member constituency section; Mr Benn, Mr Norman Atkinson, Mr David Blunkett leader of Sheffield City Council, Mr Heffer, Mr Meacher, Miss Jo Richardson, Mr Dennis Skinner and Mrs Audrey Wise.

Of the eight will have to drop out if neither Mr Heffer nor Mr Meacher wins a leadership post, but it will in any case almost certainly be a clean sweep for the left in that section.

The left expects at least one gain in the NEC women's section, with the anticipated return of Miss Joan Maynard, and possibly two, if Mrs Margaret Beckett is successful.

In the trade union section the left's main hopes for points are pinned on Mr Eric Clarke, of the National Union of Mine-workers; Mr Douglas Hoyle, MP, of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs; and Mr Charles Kelly (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians).

After the conference, interest will switch to the home policy and organization committee chairmanships. Mr Hoyle is seen by the left as a possible candidate who might be more acceptable to Mr Kinnock than Mr Benn for the former post.

It is thought that Mr Kinnock would be happy to see Mr Sam McCluskie, chairman of the organization committee, which has the sensitive task of taking any future action against the Militant Tendency, Mr Russell Tuck, the present organization chairman, is retiring.

Speculation about the timing of Mr Benn's possible return to Parliament, after his general election defeat, increased yesterday after Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham, North-West, confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Benn shortly after the election about the possibility of standing down from his seat in his favour. Mr Banks made clear that Mr Benn had turned the idea down flat.

Left-wing supporters of Mr Benn made clear yesterday that although he was grateful for the offer he could never have countenanced it because he would not have wanted to create an artificial by-election. They consider that Mr Benn's return at a by-election is "only a matter of time" and that he has no need to rush.

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Blow restores blind man's sight



Mr Willis with Jason, who was three weeks old when his father went blind.

A woman has restored her blind husband's sight by hitting him on the head with a plastic bucket.

Mr Kevin Willis, aged 28, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, became blind a year ago when a nerve condition which doctors were unable to cure attacked his left eye. He had lost his sight eye as a child in an accident with a dart.

During the recent hot weather, he and his wife Karen, aged 20, were in a paddling pool in their back garden, playing with their two sons. Mrs Willis struck her husband a playful blow with the bucket and the next morning he saw the daylight.

She was amazed when he came into the room with their son Jason, aged one, and said "Hasn't Jason got curly hair?"

The next day his sight was completely restored.

Mr Willis said: "My other son, Glyn, who is two, does not understand what is going on. We used to play a game of hide and seek when he would simply stand in the corner of the room; now he cannot understand how I can find him so easily."

First French casualty killed by mine explosion in Chad

By Leslie Plummer

The French forces in Chad have suffered their first casualty. The *Times* has learnt. The death, which occurred this week near Abéché, where French forces have one of their forward positions north-east of the capital, Njamena, happened when a soldier stepped on a mine.

It is not known whether it was planted by the Libyan-backed rebel forces of the former Chadian president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, or by forward units of the French forces themselves.

Probing by such units this week has produced firm evidence of the presence of 762 tanks from Libya in rebel areas, north-east of Njamena.

The French failure to announce the death indicates, first a reluctance to upset diplomatic efforts to settle the Chad conflict, in which Mr Oueddei's forces are seeking to overthrow the government of President Hissène Habré, and second, that the soldier involved may have been a Legionnaire.

The body has been returned to France officially classified as a fatality among the French peace-keeping forces in Lebanon.

air attacks, armoured vehicles are on the way from France and other parts of Africa, along with light artillery.

The 1st Foreign Legion Cavalry Regiment unit just dispatched from Arles consists of 16 to 30 armoured vehicles, carrying 90mm guns and intended to improve probing operations.

French reconnaissance in the past five days has produced photographic evidence that 762 tanks from Libya are now in the rebel area as Libya continues to pour equipment into the oasis town of Faya-Largeau, 500 miles north of Njamena.

The United States estimated this week that 3,500 Libyan troops are in Chad, with more based in the Aozou Strip, the 39,000-square-mile border region which Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has occupied since 1973.

The Chad Government believes that some of the Soviet advisers who have been in the strip for several years are probably now in Faya-Largeau, assisting Libyan and rebel forces.

Now the pension funds, which are the biggest investors.

Executive director want a body set up which would keep a register of all directors' contracts.

Pressure from big shareholders ousted Sir John from the John Brown board last month in favour of Sir John Cuckney, who was promoted from deputy chairman. Sir John Mayhew-Saunders enjoyed a unique position in the John Brown boardroom where he was the only executive director.

Business News page 11

Fight to stop £400,000 pay-off

By Jonathan Clare

Furious shareholders in John Brown, the troubled engineering company, will fight to stop a possible £400,000 "golden handshake" to Sir John Mayhew-Saunders, the former chairman.

Such a payment would be a record. Ousted directors in other companies have tried to get more but have been blocked by shareholders, the courts or their former company.

Sir John's £400,000 would be based on his salary and five-year rolling service contract. Rolling contracts are renewed each year and are disliked by big shareholders because they are rarely able to question them.

Yesterday sources close to the company said negotiations were still under way with Sir John's lawyers but that the sum was likely to be less than half the suggested figure of £400,000. Last year Sir John was paid more than £81,000 for his services.

John Brown's profits collapsed two years ago and it is saddled with heavy debts and therefore in no position to be generous to former directors.

Shareholders, who received no dividend last year, are adamant that the company should only pay legitimate damages for loss of office.

The manager of one fund, a major shareholder in John Brown, said: "If the payment looks anything like the size which has been reported I will protest."

The row over Sir John's compensation follows shareholder disquiet about a proposed record-breaking £560,000 payment to Mr Jack Gill, Associated Communications Corporation's former managing director, which has still to be settled.

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Business News page 11

Tee-shirt clue to sex attack

Police are searching for a tee-shirt which could provide vital evidence in their hunt for three "callous and brutal" men who kidnapped and sexually assaulted a boy aged six in Brighton.

A retired woman reported finding a tee-shirt similar to the boy's while she was walking along a coastal bridle path about 12 hours after the boy was found dumped in Tel-scombe, near Newhaven.

She carried it some distance before leaving it on a bench near Rottingdean Windmill on the outskirts of Brighton, but it was only on Thursday night that she realized its significance and contacted the police, who have asked that anyone who picked it up should contact them. They searched the area near the bench yesterday, but the tee-shirt was gone.

The bridegroom across the Downs, a favourite spot for courting couples, closely matches the boy's description of the scene where he was assaulted. He reported being stung and scratched by nettles and thistles and said the men had removed his tee-shirt and laid it on long grass.

Det Inspector Peter Whitehouse, head of the special incident room, said: "There is a dried-up dew pond near the track where there is long grass, thistles and nettles, and it is possible to drive a car on to the track."

"We want to be absolutely sure of the area in which the offence took place, and the tee-shirt may give us a clue to that area."

The number of officers at the incident room was increased to more than 40 yesterday as calls from the public continued to stream in. Reward money now totals nearly £34,000.

Mr Lawrence Jarvis, who helped police to draw up a photo of one of the three men, went to Scotland Yard yesterday to look through photographs of known criminals. He was unable to provide enough information for further photo-fits.

Mr Croker, need more gaps in fixtures.

last season's championship supporters Croker's statement. The match between England and Scotland, the "old enemies" who are to continue to play each other on a friendly basis

every year, drew 64,000 spectators to Wembley, equivalent to the sum of the attendances at the other five ties. The next highest total, 24,000 for England against Wales, was the lowest gate in Wembley's history.

Yet fixture congestion, which has hurt particularly the successful first division clubs, has entered the international arena. Bobby Robson, England's manager, who was consulted before the decision was taken, supported the view that the competition should be staged biennially to fill the gaps between the World Cup and the European Championship. He and his predecessors were frustrated by the lack of high-class international opposition.

When the Mental review Tribunal considered Mr Clarke for release earlier this year, Northamptonshire County Council's social services department objected, claiming he would be a danger to the public. The council is Mr Clarke's legal guardian.

Security guard shot dead in Tube raid

By Michael Horsnell

A security guard was shot dead outside Belgrave Road Underground station, north-west London, yesterday after collecting £8,964 from the booking office.

Mr Peter Clark, aged 52, of Matlock Road, Waltham Forest, east London, was hit by a sawn-off shotgun as he was about to load three money bags into a van for deposit in a local bank.

Two raiders, both white and believed in their late twenties, snatched the bags and ran off down an alleyway at the side of the station towards a car park where a vehicle is thought to have been waiting.

Mr Clark, who was employed by PPR Security, based at Ilford, Essex, was left in a pool of blood on the pavement. Passing firemen tried to revive him, but he was dead on arrival at the Royal Free Hospital.

Mr Clarke, who was married, was accompanied by a driver in the collection. The shooting occurred at about 12.45 pm and sent people diving for cover.

Giles Fernando, aged nine, from Highgate, north London, who was in the bank, said that a man wearing blue shorts and a blue shirt had tried to snatch one of the bags, then the other man pulled a sawn-off shotgun out of a hold-all and shot the guard in the side.

Sean Hill, aged 16, who was in a fish and chip shop, took four photographs of the robbery which the police were studying last night.

The police have appealed for witnesses to ring (01) 725 4212. It is believed the two men may have been waiting for up to two hours.

Rampton man released after 11 years

A man who has spent 11 years at Rampton mental hospital has been released after inaccuracies were found in his medical records.

Mr Lyle Clarke, aged 27, who was committed in 1972, started a period of reassessment yesterday as a voluntary in-patient at a Northampton mental hospital as part of a rehabilitation course.

When the Mental review Tribunal considered Mr Clarke for release earlier this year, Northamptonshire County Council's social services department objected, claiming he would be a danger to the public. The council is Mr Clarke's legal guardian.

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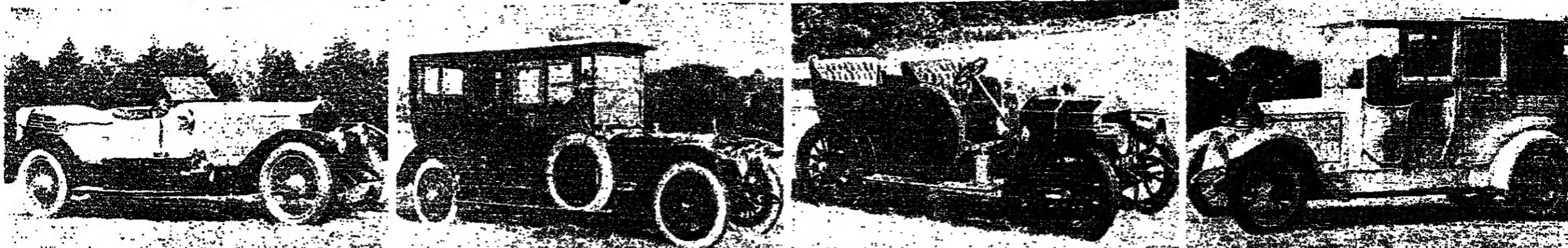
Among these saloons are the Maharaja State Coach, the oldest, built in 1898. The Maharaja of Tananagar Coach with its unique ornamental ceiling and Burma Teak side panels. The Bikaner State Saloon - the scene of many a royal marriage - complete with romantic verandah. The pure white Viceroys Coach - used by the agent for the Governor-General for Rajasthan.

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A rare chance to buy a 1905 Rolls-Royce for £100,000



The finest collection of Rolls-Royce ever to be offered for sale will be auctioned in October through Christie's, South Kensington, in association with Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (Christopher Warman writes). Three of the cars are expected to fetch at least £100,000.

The collection belongs to Mr Stanley Sears, who lives in Portugal. He began collecting cars, especially Rolls-Royces, in the 1930s, long before most collections were formed.

His cars are likely to set price records for Rolls-Royces and the sale will probably reach up to

£500,000; however, because the seven vehicles are rare and in such perfect condition, Christie's is reluctant to give details.

The star of the collection, which is to be sold at the Earls Court Motorfair on October 22, is a 1914 Silver Ghost Alpine Eagle tourer by Portolane (ex-

clusive left). It is in pristine condition, although its engine has done more than 300,000 miles.

The car was returned by its owner to Rolls-Royce in the 1930s, but when war broke its body was replaced with that of a lorry to transport Spitfire en-

gines. After the war its original body was restored and it was acquired by Mr Sears in 1951. It should fetch more than £100,000.

Mr Sears was fired with enthusiasm for collecting after watching the London to Brighton run, although these cars, which include a 1905 model, were too

young to qualify.

The oldest car is a rare 1905 Light Twenty TT Replica Tonneau (second from left), capable of 65-70 mph, which could also command a price in six figures.

The third car which could fetch £100,000 is a 1912 Silver Ghost limousine by the royal

coachbuilders Hooper (first from left), which was purchased for the collection in 1945.

Less valuable financially, but fascinating historically, is the 1923 20-horsepower laundrette (right), the body built in 1910 by Hamshaw, of Leicester, for Lord Lonsdale.

Consul says Irish visit did not represent the US Government

The newly appointed United States consul in Belfast warned people yesterday against believing that the recent Congressmen and Irish National Caucus delegation which visited the province represented the United States Government.

He said that Congressmen Richard Ottinger and Robert Borski were two out of 435 members of Congress and the Irish National Caucus campaign to stop Short Brothers being awarded a £20m US Air Force contract would not have a "big influence".

Mr Sam Bartlett, who has been in the province for two weeks, said Official Unionist

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Party allegations that Short Brothers had lost the contract were probably untrue because the bids were just coming in.

"Once the bids are in decision-making starts and this will go on until some time near the end of the year."

People, Mr Bartlett said should not be under the mistaken impression that this week's visitors spoke for the US Government and he did not believe there had been any official government funding of their journey.

He said President Reagan had explained the US government's position in a statement

on St Patrick's Day in which he said he would discourage fundraising by violent groups, crack down on gun-running, and promote industrial investment in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Mr Bartlett said Congressmen Mario Biaggi's ad hoc committee on Irish affairs was an informal grouping and that the Friends of Ireland Group, which included Senator Edward Kennedy and Speaker Tip O'Neill, paralleled the US Government's attitude toward Northern Ireland more frequently than the views of the other committee.

Discrimination in workforces alleged

Industry symbolizes rift

For Northern Ireland's Roman Catholics, the engineering industry in Belfast is seen as a symbol of discrimination with the workforce undoubtedly dominated by Protestants (Richard Ford writes).

Harland and Wolff and Short Brothers are the names mentioned most in the list of Roman Catholic grievances. Both are situated in staunchly Protestant east Belfast.

Today the shipyard struggles to survive and its decline is seen as symbolic of the crumbling of a Protestant/Unionist ascendancy, while Short's, which is 100 per cent Government-owned, is the largest employer in the province.

Its fight to win a multi-million pound order from the United States Air Force has involved Short's in unwelcome publicity, with the Irish National Congress making allegations of anti-Roman Catholic employment practices.

In 1977 the province's Fair Employment Agency (FEA) began an investigation into Belfast's engineering industry, discovering that a marked imbalance of religious representation in the traditionally highly-paid and high-status jobs had changed little in the previous six years.

Its investigation found that among skilled workers only between 4.5 and 8 per cent were Roman Catholics. This figure was apparently higher in unskilled and clerical areas, but the agency still believed that under 10 per cent of the total workforce were Roman Catholics.

In spite of attempts by management to make contact with Roman Catholic schools, the proportion was not increasing and in 1978 only six out of 98 apprentices had come from those schools.

Roman Catholics see these figures as proof that Short's have an employment policy that is positively discriminatory against them, but all the companies investigated by the FEA, including the aircraft manufacturers, said they did not perceive a problem of equality of opportunity.

While the FEA found no evidence of patent discrimination by management it did feel that employers were not providing equality of opportunity and that they should take the initiative to try to encourage Roman Catholics to join the companies.

Short's denies that it discriminated against Roman Catholics. A spokesman said of the FEA figures: "I do not know if they are accurate. We do not keep records of the religious composition of the workforce."

The answer is a little ingenious because in Northern Ireland a person's name and school are often enough to identify his religion.

The company has always employed Roman Catholics and some say there is nothing to stop them achieving promotion, but few Roman Catholics believe it is worth joining the firm.

Its attempts to answer the allegations of the Irish National Congress have been greeted with dismay by some in the

province who believe it would have been better for the firm to admit that there had been problems in the past which was now attempting to rectify.

Neither has a letter of testimony from Short's shop stewards denying a policy of religious discrimination and saying as a trade union principle they would not now or historically permit Short's to discriminate.

The firm's use of this was described as "disastrous", particularly when the Irish National Congress was able to make much of the background of one of the stewards' involvement in the "loyalist" workers' strike which brought down the power-sharing executive.

However, the problem is made more complex because of the firm's position in east Belfast, the sectarian nature of Northern Ireland and the history of the state as Protestant-dominated.

Traditionally, news of job vacancies spread by word of mouth with a network of relatives and friends letting people know and some firms because their files of application forms were so large.

The position of the firm has also been crucial in deterring Roman Catholics.

Many Roman Catholics would be frightened to travel into an area like east Belfast, which is dominated by Protestants. As the FEA said, the companies on the eastern side of the river are regarded by west Belfast Catholics almost as "no go" areas.

Fears grow for informer's wife

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A police hunt was still under way in Co Donegal last night for several members of a kidnap gang as fears grew for the safety of an informer's wife being held by the Irish National Liberation Army.

Two men detained by the police after the rescue on Thursday of the stepfather and half-sister of the INLA informer Henry Kirkpatrick, aged 25, are being questioned by detectives at Letterkenny. Both men had addresses in Co Donegal; one is Sean O'Hara, whose brother, Patsy, died on hunger strike in the Maze prison in 1981.

Four other men from Londonderry, who were held on the Farnah peninsula on Thursday night, were expected to be released by the police after fingerprinting and questioning.

Their relatives alleged that the men, from the Shantallow area of Londonderry, had been in the republic on a regular weekly fishing trip, that their car was packed with fishing tackle and lunch boxes.

In Co Donegal the police were combing the rugged countryside for up to eight members of the gang who fled in four hijacked cars as the police arrived at the five-bedroom house in Gortahork, where Mr Richard Hill,

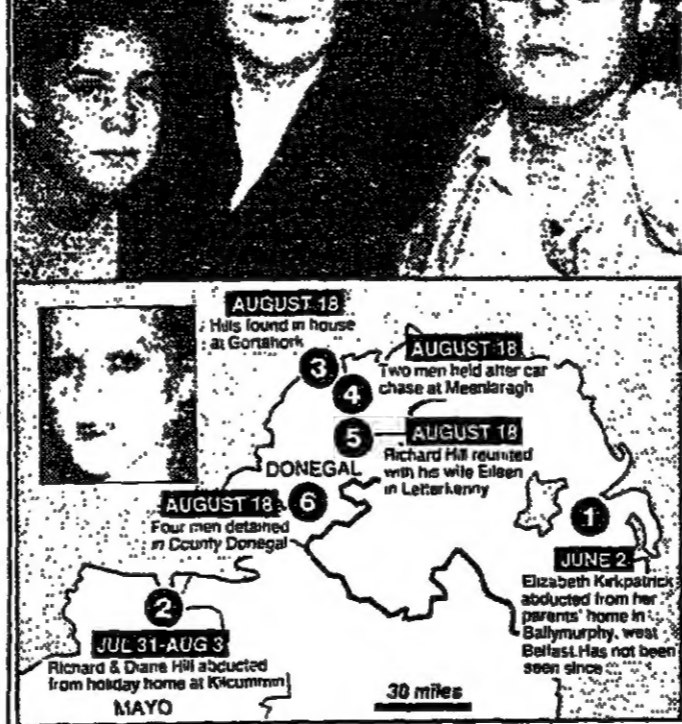
aged 50, and his daughter, Diane, aged 13, had been held for almost two weeks.

Detectives believe at least 10 people, including a woman, were involved in their abduction from a holiday home in Co Mayo as part of an attempt to force Mr Kirkpatrick, formerly Belfast quartermaster of INLA, to withdraw statements implicating 18 people in serious terrorist crime.

As Mr Hill, his wife, Eileen, and daughter, Diane, returned to their home in Belfast yesterday there was growing concern over the fate of Mrs Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, aged 24, the wife of Henry Kirkpatrick.

She was abducted from her parents' home in West Belfast in June by hooded men. The INLA has threatened to kill her soon. With the release of the Hills, pressure is mounting on the terrorists to carry out their threats or have them revealed as empty threats.

The INLA now know that Mrs Kirkpatrick's capture has not caused her husband to withdraw his evidence. Mr Kirkpatrick wrote to his mother and wife from his cell in the annex of Crumlin Road jail some time ago saying he wanted nothing more to do with them.



Mrs Eileen Hill (centre) reunited with her husband, Richard, and daughter, Diane, yesterday, and Mrs Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (inset), who is still missing.

Review of legal aid principles

By a Staff Reporter

The Government has launched a review of the principles behind legal aid after criticism of the way the system is working.

Lord Hailsham, of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has asked the Legal Aid Advisory Committee to review eligibility limits for civil and criminal aid and the non-financial criteria for the grant of legal aid.

Lord Hailsham said: "I am inviting the advisory committee to undertake a fresh look at the basic principles of legal aid."

The last full review of criminal legal aid was that of the Widgery report of 1966; the main source document for civil legal aid is still the Ruscliffe report of 1945.

Lord Hailsham said recently that the legal aid service is "cascading out of control". Costs have more than doubled in the past five years, with the Lord Chancellor's department estimating that £300m will be spent in 1983-84.

The review comes in the wake of criticisms that the legal aid system largely restricts action through the courts to the relatively poor and the well-off, leaving out many middle-income people.

Free legal aid is available for civil proceedings only to those with a capital of less than £2,500 and a disposable income of less than £1,965. Above that, contributions can be made. Those with disposable incomes above £4,720 and capital of £4,000 are usually ineligible.

In civil cases the non-financial criteria include a decision by the Law Society on whether there are reasonable grounds for proceeding with the case. In the criminal area the tests laid out in the Widgery report include the consequences for someone if convicted and whether a substantial point of law is at issue.

The Legal Aid Group, a pressure group of lawyers said last night that it suspected that reference was an attempt to produce cuts in legal aid.

Letter bomb is sent to doomed colliery

The manager of the doomed Cardowan colliery near Glasgow received a letter bomb yesterday. The device failed to explode, the coal board said.

Earlier yesterday, the Glasgow office of the Press Association newsmagazine received a letter from the Scottish National Liberation Army. It said: "SNLA attacks on 19/20. No more cuts."

The coal board wants to close the pit because it is making heavy losses. Cardowan employed 1,090 miners, but 300 have already left voluntarily and about 700 have been transferred to other pits. Work at two Scottish collieries was halted for several days last month because miners object to the transfers.

Mr Alex Ferry, National Union of Mineworkers' delegate at Cardowan, said: "Our reaction to what has happened is one of anger. All I can say to these people is that we do not want them associated with our cause. The men here are shocked. Things like this always happen to someone else; you do not expect it in a place like this."

Miners' union leaders appealed to the coal board on

Tuesday to retain Cardowan, and the colliery at Brynllw, South Wales.

Mr Michael McGahey, Scottish miners' leader, said Cardowan could have a viable future if the board invested in machinery.

Glasgow police confirmed that a letter had been sent to Cardowan and had been taken away for examination. They warned people handling letters to look out for other devices.

A police spokesman said: "Following the delivery of a letter claiming responsibility, purporting to be from the SNLA to the Press Association in Glasgow, we warn people handling mail to be alert to the possibility of similar suspicious envelopes appearing in the post."

The Scottish National Liberation Army has been linked with more than a dozen letter bombs or hoaxes in the past year.

In June, the group claimed responsibility for an incendiary device sent to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

Each time a letter bomb was posted, there was a statement to the Press Association for the SNLA.

Closure threat to paper after big losses

By Amanda Haigh

The Evening Post-Echo in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, will close on November 16 with the loss of 394 jobs unless a buyer is found.

Thomson Regional Newspapers announced yesterday (Amanda Haigh writes).

Mr William Heaps, the managing director, said that the company's operation had lost £2m over the past three years and the forecast this year was for a loss of £1m.

The circulation of the newspaper, established in 1967, had fallen from 92,742 in 1976 to 61,876 in 1982; advertising had fallen due to the recession and

the proliferation of other media, such as free newspapers, in the area, Mr Heaps said.

"This market is unlikely to recover for some time, and never to anything approaching the higher levels of the past", he said.

The closure will also effect editions covering Dunstable, Luton, Watford and St Albans.

The Post-Echo, one of the newest evening newspapers in the country, has had a troubled industrial relations record. If it closes, it will be the first shutdown this year of an evening newspaper.

Tebbit gives hope to TUC

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

whatever means they wish and accordingly will denounce next month the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention 95 to which the Government is a signatory.

The convention offers wage protection to workers and the talks between the TUC and the Department of Employment are likely to centre on maintaining those sections of the convention not concerned with payment of wages in cash.

A TUC delegation spent an hour with Mr Tebbit pressing him to slow plans to phase in the payment of wages by cheque of bank credit. It is likely that a joint investigation, joined by business leaders and the High Street banks, will look into problems arising out of planned legislation.

Mr Tebbit has said he intends to repeal the nineteenth century Truck Acts which entitle workers to demand payment by

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The restoration of normal relations between the TUC and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, appeared closer last night after a second meeting within 24 hours gave union leaders hope that he would modify proposals for ending the payment of wages in cash.

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Talks fail to end Nigg yard dispute

By a Staff Reporter

Management and union leaders from Highland Fabricator's oil platform yard at Nigg held separate meetings throughout yesterday without coming any nearer to resolving a dispute which led to the dismissal of the yard's 2000 hourly-paid workers on Thursday.

Management have ruled out the possibility of meeting shop stewards but say they are prepared to talk with officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers who travelled up to Nigg, 50 miles north of Inverness, yesterday.

A spokesman said the company will begin recruiting a new workforce next week. It is believed at least 500 of the dismissed workers will not be re-hired. Management say the firm is fighting for its life.

Protest at 'tax for weapons'

Canon Paul Oestreicher, aged 31, a vice-president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, appeared at Lambeth County Court yesterday after refusing to pay £30 of his income tax which, he says, would go towards nuclear weapons.

He was granted leave to appeal by Judge Magnus, and the case will be heard at a date to be fixed. After the brief hearing Canon Oestreicher said: "I am very, very pleased. I believe it is the first time an appeal has been heard in a case of this kind."

He said he had worked out the amount based on the level of national spending which goes on defence and the proportion of that which is dedicated to nuclear weapons.

Canon Oestreicher, one of four vice-presidents of CND,



Canon Oestreicher. Granted an appeal.

was ordered last month to pay the tax demand or face have the money taken forcibly from his bank account.

The judge ruled that Canon Oestreicher, international secretary of the British Council of Churches and an honorary canon of Southwark Cathedral, had sufficient grounds for an appeal against paying the demand.

CND to review its specialist groups

By Nicholas Timmins

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is reviewing all its specialist sections, their organization, and their policy-making powers after their rapid growth in recent years and attempts by some sections to take policy beyond the area of nuclear disarmament.

The review was under way well before the present dispute over the activities of Youth CND, technically a youth wing of CND rather than a specialist section.

The national committee of youth CND has been suspended and all decisions taken at its annual conference last month were declared void after irregularities were discovered: membership cards inadequately checked, ages were not checked and a resolution was passed supporting a demonstration next month against the Chilean regime, which is outside CND's policy.

Only 29 of the 200 or so CND groups attended the conference, one group, Oxford, held almost a fifth of the votes among the 200 people who attended, out of a total membership of 8,000.

In the weeks before the conference the Oxford group registered 130 new members. It has some Socialist League members and has held committee meetings at 26 Ballingdon Road, the address at the centre of the BL "moles" dispute.

The action over Youth CND comes after a decision in June

to put four national council members on the executive of Labour CND with power to veto any decision out of line with CND's policy after irregularities at Labour CND's annual conference earlier this year.

According to CND sources, about 400 people attended the conference compared with 60 last year, membership was not checked and some Socialist League members were elected to its executive.

Internal arguments about policy within the executive followed. Matters came to a head over attempts within the executive to donate money to Socialist Action, the newspaper of the Socialist League, and over a model resolution to be sent to constituency Labour parties for the year's Labour Party conference calling on a Labour government to scrap all nuclear weapons immediately on taking office.

Labour policy is to implement a non-nuclear defence policy over the lifetime of a Labour government. Some Labour CND executive members considered the membership for the year's Labour Party conference calling on a Labour government to scrap all nuclear weapons immediately on taking office.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said yesterday that the decisions over Labour CND and youth CND were not a witch-hunt but an attempt to ensure that the parties were representative of their membership.

Mother's threat to sue over loss of baby

Mr Martin Newton and his wife, Moira, have been offered £750 compensation for the loss of their 8lb 5oz baby, Leanne Michelle, who died four days after birth in a hospital in Chesterfield.

The baby was delivered in Scarsdale Hospital by Caesarean section after other methods had been tried. At an inquest two consultants and a pathologist agreed that if the operation had been carried out sooner the baby might have lived.

The baby died a year ago. Now Mrs Newton, aged 24, of Boughton Lane, Clowns, north Derbyshire, who said that at the time she pleaded for a Caesarean because of the baby's size, says she and her husband, a miner, might take out a private legal action.

The Trent Regional Health Authority said: "An offer does not imply we accept we were responsible."

The district administrator for the North Derbyshire Health Authority, Mr John Newton, said: "There was no suggestion of negligence. An offer has been made to the parents and if they accept it they will sign a form on which the authority does not admit liability."

Mestel's ingenuity puts him in the lead again

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Southampton

Jonathan Mestel, the young English grandmaster, is again in the sole lead in the Grieson Grand British chess championships.

He had a hard game against Hodgson in round 10 which at one time looked a likely draw, but he found an ingenious continuation that enabled him to force a win in 53 moves.

With the fine score of eight points, Mestel enjoys a half-point lead over Murray Chandler who had a good win against Botvinnik in 35 moves.

In losing to the Australian Rogers, Speelman, one of the favourites to win the title, said goodbye to his winning chances.

Rogers and his fellow Australian, Johansen, who beat Flear in this round, along with Horner and Martin, are lying in third place with seven points each.

round 9, Miss Jackson beat Brameld.

In the British ladies' championship, Miss Condie lost the lead she had held through the tournament by losing to Miss Milligan who is now tying for first place with Miss Condie and Miss Hamid with 4 1/2 pts. Mrs Hamid had a comfortable win in this round against Mrs Wood.

Other results round 9: Mrs Wright 1/2, Mrs Jackson 1/2, Mrs Condie 1/2, Mrs Milligan 1/2, Mrs Hamid 1/2, Mrs Wood 1/2, Mrs Rogers 1/2, Mrs Speelman 1/2, Mrs Johansen 1/2, Mrs Flear 1/2, Mrs Horner 1/2, Mrs Martin 1/2, Mrs Rogers 1/2, Mrs Speelman 1/2, Mrs Johansen 1/2, Mrs Flear 1/2, Mrs Horner 1/2, Mrs Martin 1/2.

In an adjourned game from

Overseas selling prices
Austria 20/-, Belgium 20/-, Canada 20/-, Denmark 20/-, France 20/-, Germany 20/-, Greece 20/-, India 20/-, Italy 20/-, Japan 20/-, Korea 20/-, Malaysia 20/-, Mexico 20/-, Netherlands 20/-, New Zealand 20/-, Norway 20/-, Portugal 20/-, Spain 20/-, Sweden 20/-, Switzerland 20/-, Taiwan 20/-, Thailand 20/-, United Kingdom 20/-, USA 20/-, West Germany 20/-, Yugoslavia 20/-.

Kidney disease case in London as search for cause continues

By Arthur Osman

The kidney disease that has caused three deaths in the past month, and affected 28 children in three areas has also affected a child in north London, it was said yesterday.

Dr Paul Gully, a Birmingham consultant in community medicine, visited the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre at Colindale, north London, where the search for the source of the disease haemolytic uraemic syndrome, is being co-ordinated.

Dr Gully is leading the search in the west Midlands, where a woman aged 59, and a girl aged two, have died and 18 children have been infected. Five are still in hospital, and the condition of two was said yesterday to be still causing concern.

He is also in touch with doctors in Sheffield, where there have been six cases, and Manchester, where there have been four, all children. In an apparently isolated case, a Nottingham girl aged nine died on August 12.

Dr Gully said the London case appeared recently, but the child was now well. He declined to pinpoint the area where it happened on the age and sex of the child. He said: "I was told about it in confidence for my own information. But it was not part of a cluster. We expect such sporadic cases at this time of the year."

He denied a report that he had suggested ice cream or ice lollies were the possible source. All children ate them particularly in a hot summer. He said parents of the sick children had been asked about a whole range of food and drinks. "We have some ideas we are following up, but there is nothing definite."

At the Centre for Applied Microbiological Science, Porton Down, Wiltshire, Dr Peter Sutton, the director, said there was no progress to report on the cultures of blood samples from infected children. It is suspected that a virus is involved.

He continued: "We are exploring a number of avenues, but nothing has come up yet and it has got to be given longer. It could be a matter of days or weeks."

● Haemolytic uraemic syndrome is a condition in which the sudden rapid destruction of the red blood cells, a process known as haemolysis, causes acute renal failure, partly due to the blocking of the small arteries in the kidney (our Medical Correspondent writes).

The haemolytic process, as well as giving rise to severe anaemia also causes a drop in the number of platelets, particles in the blood essential for clotting. Death, when it occurs, can therefore either be due to kidney failure, a lowered resistance to infection, or severe haemorrhage. Dialysis on a kidney machine can help the patient to overcome the effects of the renal failure, but has no influence on the course of the disease.

The syndrome has been reported for the past 30 years, but has only recently received widespread publicity, probably as the result of a joint exercise being mounted this year by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre and the British Paediatric Association, to monitor all cases in the hope of discovering common factors between them.

It was originally intended that there should be no publicity for the survey, but news of the cases reported to it has appeared in the press through the regional health authorities involved. Doctors hope that the publicity, though unplanned, may stimulate research.

The syndrome occurs in isolated cases as a result of septicaemia, eclamptic fits in pregnancy, or reaction to some drugs, and sometimes in the elderly without an obvious cause.

Particular interest is centred on the sporadic small outbreaks which occur in this country. Usually they affect children in the summer or early autumn.

When cases are clustered together in this way doctors naturally suspect that there might be an infecting agent, in this instance it is thought possible to be a virus. Infection may be only one of several factors; diet deficiency and genetic make-up have both been suggested as others.

Government scientists at Colindale are exploring the theory that the syndrome might be caused by the production of a toxin by one of the organisms which normally give rise to gastro-enteritis. Outbreaks are more common in other parts of the world, particularly South America and Central America. Affected children first appear to be suffering from gastro-enteritis, but rapidly lapse into kidney failure. The failure produces nausea, vomiting, headache, itching, and if untreated, then proceeds to sleepiness, confusion, and death.



Clowns at prayer: A quiet moment before the frolics. (Photograph: John Voos).

Clown priests tumble in and take a pew

They were laughing, dancing and rolling in the aisles of St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, yesterday as Britain's first Christian clowning course got under way (Amanda Haigh writes).

Sixty would-be clowns, from teenagers to pensioners, came from all parts of Britain to learn tumbling, storytelling, puppetry, and mime, and make holy fools of themselves.

The three-day course ends

with an eucharist at the church tomorrow, at which clowns, dancers, and puppeteers will perform the lessons and the prayers. The course was organized by British Christians keen to copy the success in the United States of about 3,000 clown ministry groups led by the clergy. They take their jokes and their message to hospital patients, prisoners, drug addicts and prostitutes.

Mrs Carol Crowther, aged

35, a professional clown from Wimbledon who is leading the course said: "It would be nice if we could persuade people in this country to become clown priests".

The Rev Roly Bain, aged 29, who is on the staff of Southwark Cathedral was taking part in the falling class and still wearing his clerical collar. He said: "Part of what I hope all this will do is to

encourage the Church to make a fool of itself.

Patrick Forbes, joint organizer of the course who is St Albans diocesan communications officer, said: "Humour has got a lot to offer. The Church is far too solemn."

His son Stephen, aged 15, thought the course was great fun, said he was not afraid of making a fool of himself. "I do that anyway."

Pre-school computer programs

By Bill Johnston

Electronics Correspondent

Children in future may well discard their coloured balls and painting books in favour of home computers if a new type of program written specifically for children aged four to eight is successful.

Longman, the educational publishers, has launched three home computer programs designed to help children to take their first foraging steps towards literacy and numeracy.

The group has been involved in developing microcomputer software for schools, but these new programs effectively introduce it to the home computing market. Each of the programs is accompanied by an instruction book for parents.

The programs have been devised for the Sinclair Spectrum, the best-selling home computer in Britain, which can produce coloured effects. There are more than a million home computers in Britain.

Thorn-EMI is designing its own educational computer programs which it intends to send through cable television networks next year.

Jealous man jailed for kidnap plot

An obsessively jealous husband paid two men £2,000 to kidnap his former wife so that he could murder her, but when they tricked him out of the money he went to the police to complain, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Describing the "extraordinary" case, Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that at first James Wiles lied to the police. He told them he had paid the men to murder his former wife, Doris, aged 45, but had changed his mind and wanted to stop them.

Then he admitted that he had paid the money so they would kidnap her and bring her to him in a drugged state when he could murder her.

Wiles, aged 49, a painter of Patterson Point, Fife Road, Canning Town, east London, admitted incitement to kidnap and was jailed for five years, which Judge Dewhurst said he doubted was long enough.

"You are an extreme danger to your wife, a menace to her, and the only safeguard is to lock you up for a considerable time", he said.

Mr Bevan said Wiles described to police his obsessive jealousy about his former wife.

"I imagined her with other men and they are running their hands over her", he said. As he was speaking he was grinding his teeth in rage and gripping the sides of his chair, the court was told.

"If I cannot have her, no one else will", Wiles was said to have told the police. He had laid out a tie to strangle his former wife and packed a case ready to leave his flat immediately afterwards.

Wiles said he had saved up for the three years since his divorce to "fund a remarkable operation".

He met someone in a public house who said he and a friend would kidnap his former wife and bring her to Wiles's flat in a drugged condition.

He paid them £2,000 in May, but they did not produce his former wife. "I have been ripped off. Those dirty bastards conned me and I want revenge," Wiles told the police when he first complained.

Mrs Linda Stern, for the defence said Wiles was obsessed with his former wife, but was a danger only to her. He had personality problems, but doctors disagreed about whether he needed mental treatment.

Warning to drivers of Volvos

By Clifford Webb

Motoring Correspondent

Volvo is writing to 25,000 owners of automatic versions of its 300 series car, telling them to check their driving techniques after reports that the car can shoot forward out of control immediately after starting the engine.

Dr John Tintner, a London general practitioner and Volvo owner, has called for a Government investigation and a recall of all Volvo 300s.

However, independent investigations by the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) and the Department of Transport have cleared the car of any faults that could cause a sudden surge forward.

Department of Trade inspectors interviewed several Volvo owners before visiting the Dutch factory where the 1397cc car is made. They saw the installation of the belt-driven, continuously variable automatic gearbox acquired when Volvo bought the former Daf car company.

A senior executive at Volvo Concessionaires Limited of High Wycombe, which handles all Volvo imports, said last night: "Following the MIRA report and the action of the Department of Transport we are confident that it is impossible for the car to go out of control without driver error."

He declined to speculate on other causes, but agreed that driver error appeared to be the only alternative.

A Volvo dealer offered a possible explanation last night. He said: "A lot of elderly motorists buy the 300 automatic. They start the engine with the choke out which means that it will be revving very fast, engage drive, and then wonder why it has shot forward without them touching the accelerator."

Father dug tunnel of death

A beach game designed to amuse children ended in death when Mr Graham Pepper, aged 28, father of two of the children suffocated as the tunnel he was digging collapsed on top of him.

An inquest at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, yesterday was told how other holiday-makers dug with their hands and rescue services fought against the sand in a vain effort to rescue Mr Pepper, a fisherman, of Butfield Road, Hessle, Hull, from the grave he had dug for himself.

He was under 10 tons of sand and must have suffocated almost at once, the station officer, Mr Terry Blyth, who led the firemen struggling to reach him said.

Mr Michael Sutton, the coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure.

Inquests open on 3 crash victims

The inquests on three of the four people who died in the M4 coach crash on Wednesday were opened at Swindon police station, Wiltshire, yesterday when the coroner, Mr John Elgar, heard evidence of identification.

Mrs Eirlys Phillips, aged 52, of Swansea, died from brain contusion and haemorrhage. Mr Patrick Barbes, aged 35, from Paris, died from multiple injuries, and Mr Michael Stephenson, aged 19, of Swansea, from severe head injuries. The inquests were adjourned until October 28.

Warning over hypnotist tapes

Cassette tapes for do-it-yourself hypnotists could lead to death on the roads, Mr Derek Fairley, of the Institute of Curative Hypnotists, said yesterday.

The tapes include the popular tune, "A Whiter Shade of Pale" which, if heard on the car radio, might send the driver into a trance with fatal consequences, he said.

Youngest girl to swim channel



Samantha Druce, aged 12 (above) who yesterday became the youngest girl to swim the English Channel.

She took the title from Alison Wetherly, of Howarth Road, Abbey Wood, south-east London, who had held it for about four hours after completing her swim from France to Dover on Thursday.

Driver named

The car driver killed by a train at a level crossing on Thursday while he was being pursued by the police was named yesterday as Mark Vase, aged 19, unemployed of Franklin Court, Park Barn, Guilford, Surrey.

British TV boost for Australia

By David Hewson

More Commonwealth television is to be seen in Britain from next October as a result of an agreement to raise the independent television companies' quota for overseas material.

It will provide an outlet mainly for Australian stations, but there will also be some programmes from Canada. Independent companies are at present limited by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to showing a maximum of 14 per cent of overseas material. That figure is to be raised to 15.5 per cent - provided that the extra material comes from the Commonwealth.

One ITV executive said last night: "Australian television and films have improved tremendously in quality in recent years."

The level of American and other foreign material will stay at 14 per cent, though several categories are exempt, including classic films made before 1945.

Many television executives feel that the Commonwealth countries could have made greater inroads into British television in recent years if Britain's entry into the EEC had not brought about a rewriting of the quota rules.

The IBA has interpreted EEC regulations as dictating that programmes and films made within the Community should count as a British product, although few are even dubbed in English.



New Dr Who: Colin Baker, who succeeds Peter Davison in the BBC television series, posing yesterday with Nicola Bryant, the doctor's latest assistant "Perrin".

Baker, who is aged 40, played a villain in the long running BBC television series The Brothers. A former husband of Lisa Gaddard, he is now married to Marion Wyatt, who is also an actress (Photograph: David Cairns).

Muscular pain is a particularly persistent kind of pain. Almost like a bodily toothache.

That's why ordinary remedies are seldom enough. Because unless you keep repeating the treatment throughout the day, the pain simply comes back.

With new Triadol, however, that problem doesn't exist.

Because it's the medicine specially formulated to give up to 12 hour relief from muscular aches and pains.

Specially developed, after many years of research, to deal with the specific problems of

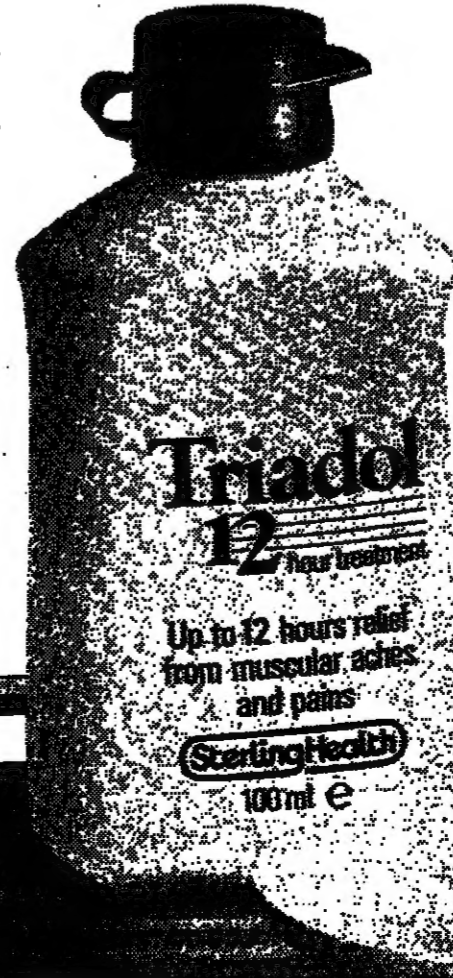
muscular pain, Triadol is now available from Sterling Health.

Triadol is more than just an effective painkiller. It actually works in three ways. Triadol eases the pain quickly. It also relieves stiffness and reduces inflammation and Triadol goes on working for up to 12 hours. So you can take Triadol in the morning and forget further treatment for the rest of the day.

You'll find Triadol in most chemists. You'll also find it a bit more expensive than ordinary treatments. But then, you won't find anything better.

NEW TRIADOL UP TO 12 HOUR RELIEF FROM MUSCULAR ACHES AND PAINS. **Triadol**

12 hour treatment



Muscular pain? Forget it.

US-backed insurgents admit they cannot win war in Nicaragua

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Reuters) - Five months after they predicted imminent victory, the leaders of US-backed insurgents fighting Nicaragua's left-wing government admit they have started a war they cannot hope to win.

"There can be no purely military victory," Señor Edgar Chamorro, a key figure in the seven-member Directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) said. "There should be negotiations".

Last March, Señor Chamorro described FDN guerrillas fighting inside Nicaragua as "the vanguard of the general insurrection". One of his directorate colleagues confidently proclaimed: "We shall be rejoining in liberated territory within 60 days".

At that time, an FDN force estimated at about 2,000 was fighting in north-western and central Nicaragua after slipping across the border from Honduras. But they failed to start an uprising and were driven back to the mountains along the frontier.

Now FDN leaders say they need more money, more arms and many more men to convince the Nicaraguan Government it must negotiate with the right-wing insurgents - an objective that falls far short of the FDN's original declared aim.

"We have 10,000 men now," Señor Chamorro said in

interviews with Reuters. "But we want to build up our force to 25,000." This would match the strength of Nicaragua's regular army.

With the help of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the FDN blossomed from a motley group of 500 to its present size in less than two years.

US assistance to the FDN, by far the largest of several exile groups opposed to Nicaragua's ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front, led to an angry debate in the United States.

FDN chiefs say they want to immerse their fighting strength to wear down the Sandinistas and force them to discuss demands for democratic reforms, an end to ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba, and a pledge to stop exporting Marxist revolution.

The insurgents apparently feel a massive show of military muscle by the United States might make the Managua leadership more amenable to talks. "The only language the Sandinistas understand is the language of force," Señor Chamorro commented. "They must be addressed in that language."

MANAGUA: Señor Humberto Ortega, the Nicaraguan Defence Minister, said that guerrillas fighting the Sandinista Government were waging their biggest offensive of the

year in northern Nicaragua and he reported heavy casualties on both sides (AFP reports).

He claimed the insurgents were trying to take over a large portion of northern Nicaragua or the country's Atlantic coast to set up a provisional government "recognizes and supported by the United States and their allies in the region."

He reported fierce fighting, particularly in the state of Jinotega, 105 miles north of the capital, and described the military situation in the north as "difficult."

The Defence Minister speculated that the "invaders" could seize Puerto Cabezas, 260 miles north-east of Managua, in the northern offensive.

SAN SALVADOR: Air Force aircraft and helicopters bombed and strafed guerrilla strongholds on two volcanoes near San Salvador on Thursday while hundreds of government soldiers tracked the rebels on the mountain slopes (AP reports).

In the north-eastern province of Morazan, troops leaving the town of Cacopera told a reporter that about 700 soldiers from two counter-insurgency battalions had recovered the town from guerrillas. They said five guerrillas were killed and three captured while two soldiers were wounded in the combat, 110 miles north-east of San Salvador.



Hurricane looting brings 120 arrests

Damaged yachts lying in the remains of a marina at Nassau Bay, Texas, after Hurricane Alicia had passed.

About 120 people have been arrested for looting in Houston and Galveston in the wake of the hurricane (Reuters reports). Six people were killed by the storm and officials estimated property damage at possibly as much as \$1,000m (£660m) in the

area of Houston, the fifth largest United States city. More than 100 people were arrested for looting in central Houston.

A police spokesman said looting of stores began even before the storm passed on Thursday, despite winds that reached up to 89 mph and blew hundreds of windows out of shops and skyscrapers throughout the business

district. Houston Lighting and Power Company reported that power had been restored yesterday to about half the 750,000 people affected. But some of the business district was still without electricity.

Alicia has now been downgraded to a tropical storm and was heading for north-central Texas at about 10 mph early yesterday.

Relations with Washington at new low

France plays the naughty boy over Chad

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

"As usual the French want to have it all their way," remarked a disgruntled US official, looking up from a map showing the latest situation in the civil war in Chad. "They don't want to see Libya taking over the place, but are not prepared to do much to prevent this happening, and they become exceedingly resentful when this is pointed out."

The crisis in Chad has brought US-French relations to a low level.

When President Reagan and President Mitterrand held their first meeting in Washington two years ago it appeared that an unlikely affinity had developed between the West's most influential conservative and socialist leaders.

However the honeymoon did not last long, and has successfully been strained by the dispute over the Soviet gas pipeline, differences in approach towards the Communist block, disagreements over how to handle the crisis in Central America and French anger over the impact which the strong dollar and high interest rates are having on the French economy.

Paradoxically, despite these irritants, France remains one of

the US's closest supporters on defence issues and the need to deploy new medium-range missiles in Europe.

Seen from Washington, France is again playing its traditional role of the naughty

boy in the European classroom, just as it did under President de Gaulle.

"France is always resentful of America's influence, but doubly so when it involves one of France's former territories," the official said. "The cause of the present tension is the two countries' differing interpretations of what is happening in Chad. The US sees the dispute in East-West terms, with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, as the chief villain who, with Soviet arms, is bent on empire-building in Central Africa."

France views it essentially as a regional dispute between two nationalistic leaders. It wants to isolate it from superpower conflict and also keep open its expanding commercial relations with Libya.

President Mitterrand's Government, which has tried to wind down France's traditional role of policing its former African colonies, favours negotiating with Libya as the best way of stopping the fighting. The Americans, however, with strong Egyptian and Sudanese backing, want Colonel Gaddafi to be cut down to size.

The US has been openly critical of France's failure to act quickly and decisively in what President Reagan described as its "sphere of influence," a neo-colonial reference which does not go down well in socialist Paris.

The delay in the dispatch of French troops and refusal to send fighter aircraft to Chad is seen in Washington as being largely responsible for the recent military successes of the Libyan-backed rebel forces.

In a related development, Mr. Andreu Ogben, the Communications Minister, threatened to close down radio and television stations found to be encouraging violence.

AKURE: Dozens of burnt-out cars and the shells of houses remained a stark reminder of the violence in this capital of Ondo state on Wednesday, as the situation gradually began to return to normal (AFP reports).

Two brothers, one of them an escaped convict, the other a former army man, have roamed from north to south China in recent months, shooting dead more than 20 people, mainly policemen, according to an informed source.

High officials in Peking have been warned to guard against assassination attempts by the

men, who are said to be disaffected and infuriated by the Government's strict birth-control policy.

Their rampage is one of a number of violent crimes which have led the Government to round up known criminals, especially young people, for deportation to the remote province of Qinghai.

In addition, a curfew has been in force for many months. It has complicated the proper working of many firms. Staff have had to sleep at their places of work.

Visitors have become much rarer. The hotels at the moment have at best only 5 per cent occupancy. The tourist season looks badly compromised. There has been a spate of cancellations of hotel bookings.

"How could it be otherwise?" a hotel employee asked. "The borders still remain closed at

night. The airport is still under guard by armed soldiers, and the airlines have been forced to rearrange their flight times to abide by the curfew."

Heads of major companies are talking of having to lay off up to 25 per cent of their staff if there is no improvement in the near future.

"Our general expenses remain the same even when business isn't moving," one explained. "The electricity we pay for here is among the most expensive in the world."

Captain Sankara is said to be fully aware of the economic

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Western Sahara war unresolved

Morocco chases a referendum mirage

From Geoffrey Morrison, Dakhla, Western Sahara

Appropriately, since it concerns the future of an area of sand slightly bigger than Britain, the proposed referendum of the Western Sahara looks increasingly like a political mirage.

But this week the Moroccan Administration would itself set up to win whatever contest may emerge by sending political leaders on a campaign trail of the four main towns in this territory which has been fought over for more than seven years by Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas, who want an independent state.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) called at its summit in June for a ceasefire, and for a referendum before the end of this year. But the war goes on, the seven-nation OAU "implementation committee" has not yet met and the competing parties disagree on a host of things, not least on who should be eligible to vote.

The Spaniards, the Western Sahara's colonizers, split it into two in 1976, handing the northern part to Morocco and the southern chunk to Mauritania.

In 1979 the Mauritians, tired of their war with the Polisario, pulled out of their administrative headquarters here and the Moroccans promptly moved in.

Since then, the war has continued with the Moroccans consolidating their defences in the northern part of the territory - the so-called "useful Sahara" - which contains the capital, Layoune, and the nearby phosphate deposits, behind a 350-mile sand wall.

Here in Dakhla, a windy desert town built on a long promontory surrounded by the Atlantic, they have their only important outpost beyond the wall.

Obviously, Mr. Driss Barzi, the Interior Minister, came here to install a new regional governor but as he and his colleagues spoke it was soon clear that this was a political campaign.

Loud applause from the men ringing the town's main square and shrill whistles from the women, many of whom waved King Hassan's portrait, greeted ministers' every mention of the monarch.

But perhaps most striking was to see, sitting on the same

platform as the ministers and making similar confident pleas for unity, Mr. Abderrahman Radi, leader of the opposition Socialist group in Parliament, who less than two years ago was under house arrest for political reasons.

The common theme was the need to recover "lost" territory and preserve Morocco's territorial integrity.

Mr. Abdelhak Tazi, the deputy Foreign Minister, said that when the Sahara war started, the number of African countries supporting Morocco could be counted on the fingers of one hand but that now there were at least 23.

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Car blast hurts 20 in Tripoli

Beirut - Twenty people were injured, several seriously, when a bomb exploded in a Mercedes car parked outside the Abdullah al-Bisar hospital in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. Two weeks ago a car bomb killed 19 people outside a Tripoli mosque (Kate Dougan writes).

The bomb went off a short distance from the offices of the October 24 Movement, an anti-Syrian militia supporting the Government of President Amin Gemayel.

In southern Lebanon, local authorities found 22 decomposing bodies under the rubble of a building in Sidon, once used by the Palestine Liberation Organization as a prison.

Turkish editors for questioning

Istanbul (Reuters) - Two editors and two columnists of the banned Turkish newspapers *Tercuman* (right of centre) and *Milliyet* (conservative) are to be questioned by the martial law authorities. Mr. Nazih Ilıcak, columnist and Mr. Unal Salkmaz, senior editor, have been ordered to appear before the prosecutor. So have Mr. Dogan Heper, editor-in-chief of *Milliyet* and Mr. Metin Tokat, a columnist.

Crooks' tour

Marseille (AFP) - Six men attacked security guards making a delivery to the Thomas Cook travel agency and stole 3m francs (£250,000).

Lendl's denial

Iran Lendl, the Czechoslovak tennis star, who told reporters in Mason, Ohio, that he enjoys "the easy life" in the United States, but had no plans to defect. A London newspaper, quoting exile sources, had reported that he had decided to do so.

Protests 'put down brutally'

Santiago (AFP) - Chilean protests last week were put down with an unusual degree of "brutality, sadism and fury," according to a group of doctors here.

Twenty-four demonstrators were killed and dozens more suffered gunshot wounds during last Thursday's national protest day, the fourth in as many months against the regime of President Pinochet.

Caretaker job

Rarotonga (Reuters) - The former Prime Minister, Mr. Geoffrey Henry, is to head a caretaker government in the Cook Islands until new elections are held on November 2, the Queen's Representative, Sir Gavin Donne, announced. It will be banned from making new policies or changing existing ones.

Writers' scrum

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A lavish 10-day conference for about 60 overseas rugby writers, costing an estimated \$300,000 (£330,000), opens in Cape Town on Monday, marking another South African attempt to prove itself ready to be allowed back into the international arena.

Hatred day

Bangkok (AFP) - Cambodia has fixed next May 20 as the planned "national day of hatred" against the former Khmer Rouge regime. The people would be able to remember forever the black years of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, said the Pimom Penh news agency SPK.

Space supplies

Moscow (AP) - An unmanned spacecraft Progress 17, carrying fuel, air, water, food and other supplies to the Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Aleksandr Alexandrov in the orbiting Salyut 7 complex docked with the space station. They are in their eighth week aloft.

Airliner fire

Rome (Reuters) - A Syrian Airlines Boeing 727 bound for Damascus caught fire at Rome airport as 154 passengers were boarding. There was panic on the tarmac as the plane struggled to get out. The airport was closed for an hour.

Animal crackers

Moscow (AP) - Three Siberian tigers, Alisa, Astra and Tyulpan, from the Soviet Far East, a gift from Moscow Zoo to the United States in exchange for a sea lion, will be obliged to make the trip next week via Montreal. Since martial law in Poland, President Reagan has suspected Aeroflot's US landing rights.



General Doe: Military talks planned.

Doe visit hailed by Israelis

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

General Samuel Doe, the Liberian leader, is scheduled to make a four-day state visit to Israel next week, the first black African head of state to make such an official trip since 29 African countries broke off diplomatic ties following the 1973 War.

Accompanied by six ministers, the Liberian leader is expected to devote some of his time to touring army bases and discussing a military deal. His arrival will follow last week's decision by Liberia to resume diplomatic ties with Israel, a step taken earlier by Zaire in May last year.

Announcing the visit, a jubilant Israeli official cited the move by General Doe as proof that the Begin government has now succeeded in escaping from the diplomatic isolation which resulted from the war in Lebanon and the saturation bombing of Beirut.

To support the claim, he produced a list of other recent diplomatic successes, including the decision of El Salvador to transfer its embassy back to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, the decision of the EEC countries to drop sanctions imposed on Israel after the invasion of Lebanon and the visit due later this month of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

Other recent examples of Israel's strengthened world standing are listed as greatly improved relations with the United States, the repeated hints of an imminent decision by Spain to open diplomatic ties, and this week's successful visit to Romania by Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's foreign minister.

"Who would have thought that a year to the day since Israeli jets were launching their heaviest raids on west Beirut our foreign minister would have been warmly welcomed in the capital of a Communist country," said the Jerusalem official. "All these things are part of a trend which started with the signing of our agreement with Lebanon in May."

Among other African states on which Israeli hopes are now pinned are Nigeria, Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic, Togo and Senegal.

Coup-shocked Upper Volta tries to shake off economic torpor

From Patrick Van Rooyeghem, Agence France-Presse, Ouagadougou

The political instability wracking Upper Volta in the past few months has considerably aggravated the difficult economic situation of one of the poorest countries in the world.

Worried businessmen say the new revolutionary council set up by paratrooper Captain Thomas Sankara after his coup here in early August will have its work cut out restoring confidence.

Periods of crisis and political tension have afflicted this West African state for over a year.

Last November the Saye Zorbo military regime fell after two years in power. An army doctor, Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, took over. Last May he dropped Captain Sankara from the premiership and placed him in detention for a month.

Then on the night of August 4 the captain took his revenge, ousting Major Ouedraogo only moments after he had finished broadcasting an independence anniversary message to the nation.

One aspect of these repeated crises has been the closure of the landlocked state's borders, which has hampered economic

activity when the country is already badly hit by the world recession.

In addition, a curfew has been in force for many months. It has complicated the proper working of many firms. Staff have had to sleep at their places of work.

Visitors have become much rarer. The hotels at the moment have at best only 5 per cent occupancy. The tourist season looks badly compromised. There has been a spate of cancellations of hotel bookings.

"How could it be otherwise?" a hotel employee asked. "The borders still remain closed at

night. The airport is still under guard by armed soldiers, and the airlines have been forced to rearrange their flight times to abide by the curfew."

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Glad to be home

Anrei Berezkhov, aged 16, the Soviet diplomat's son who disappeared from his home in Washington for 24 hours last week and later denied writing to President Reagan to ask for political asylum, arriving in Paris yesterday on his way back to Russia.

On arrival

Pakistan's deepening crisis

Anti-Zia protesters sabotage railways

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad

Protesters against President Zia ul-Haq's martial law regime yesterday ripped up 500 yards of railway lines in Sind province, seriously disrupting railway traffic between the northern and southern parts of Pakistan. A railway engine sent along the line as a safety measure was derailed near Chokhi station.

The protest demonstrations and civil disobedience campaign were launched last Sunday by the newly created "Save Pakistan" movement. The banned eight-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy is behind the new grouping. The campaign has been confined largely to Sind, the home province of the late Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was overthrown by General Zia in a coup six years ago.

There has been no official statement about the effect of the sabotage of railway lines, but according to the Rawalpindi Railway Inquiry Office, the Tuzga - Pakistan's track express - was running up to seven hours behind schedule yesterday.

Meanwhile, troops have taken control of six riot-torn towns in the interior of Sind. According to reports, anti-martial law activists have repeatedly exchanged fire with the police and paramilitary units in these towns.

The Army, which took control of the towns of Dadu, Moro and Kani Ahmad after three days of rioting, has now started patrolling the streets of



End of protest: Qari Sher Afzal, an opposition leader, being taken into custody by troops during anti-martial law demonstrations in Karachi.

Larkana. Mr Bhutto's home town, Jacobabad and Nushero Feroz.

At the same time, the martial law authorities have introduced harsher penalties to check anti-regime agitation across the country.

On Thursday a Lahore

military court passed a sentence of one year's jail on Mr Chandni Mohammad Arshad, a former member of General Zia's military Government and the present president of the Pakistan Democratic Party. He was also fined 20,000 rupees (£1,000).

The Karachi Bar Association and several opposition leaders have demanded an end to the summary trials and asked the Government to provide full information about the detained persons. Many top opposition leaders have been detained for up to 90

days to prevent them taking part in the civil disobedience campaign.

The leaders of Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party have been severely dealt with. Miss Benazir Bhutto, the executed Prime Minister's daughter, has indeed been detained since March, 1981, long before the current anti-martial law agitation was planned.

The Government has repeatedly warned the public that anyone found guilty of violating martial law regulation 48 could be sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment, whipped and fined.

This martial law regulation prohibits all political activities or incitement to political activity. Opposition leaders suspect that the Government might use this regulation to force newspapers to stop publishing reports of the disturbances.

KARACHI: Anti-martial law sources here reported that police shot dead five rioters and wounded 20 more in new fighting in Sind province (AP and Reuters report). The sources said that police opened fire on demonstrators while trying to disperse them at Nushero Feroz, in the Nawabshah district.

Eye-witness reports said the dead include three people in Moro and one each in Dadu, Larkana and Mehr.

Police used baton charges and tear gas to break up groups trying to set fire to banks and railway stations in Bhan Saeedabad and Khairpur Nathanshah, according to both official and unofficial sources.

Walloons aim for victory at Waterloo

Waterloo, Belgium (AFP) - A group of Walloons, French-speaking Belgians, are on the warpath over alleged British efforts to take over the battlefield where the Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon in 1815.

The "Walloons People's Rally" has issued its war cry: "No to the anglicizing of the battlefield."

Senator Jean Humblet, who represents the Walloon part of Brabant, which includes Waterloo, explained that the British were putting up too many signs in English to commemorate the battle.

"Six of them have been erected in the past three years on historical buildings, and we are seeing a veritable anglicizing of this famous battlefield."

Waterloo, 12 miles south of Brussels, is generally regarded as the place where Napoleon was defeated, rather than the Duke of Wellington's victory, and has become something of a shrine for the Emperor's admirers.

About half a million tourists visit Waterloo every year, and as half are American and British, the Duke of Wellington has decided to form a committee to keep alive the memory of his ancestor.

According to Senator Humblet: "Belgium has no reason to be grateful to the Duke of Wellington, particularly as four-fifths of the Walloons fought in the battle on the side of the French."

Extradition of Gelli approved too late

Lausanne (Reuters) - The Swiss Supreme Court yesterday approved the extradition of Licio Gelli, nine days after he escaped from jail and disappeared.

The court ruled on a request filed by the Italian Government last Autumn, despite the fact that Signor Gelli's whereabouts are unknown since he escaped from Geneva's Champdollon prison on August 10.

Signor Gelli, grandmaster of the illegal P2 masonic lodge whose members included Italian Cabinet ministers, bankers, generals and media personalities, was arrested in a Geneva bank on September 13 last year trying to draw \$120m (79m) from a numbered account.

Italian magistrates say the right-wing P2 lodge plotted against constitutional order. Its discovery in 1981 led to the downfall of the Italian Government headed by Signor Arnaldo Forlani.

Investigators also allege that Signor Gelli, an industrialist, played a role in the fraudulent collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano, which crashed last year with some \$1,400m of its funds missing.



Signor Gelli: His whereabouts unknown.

The court ruled that Signor Gelli's alleged offences, cited in the extradition request as defamation, fraud and fraudulent bankruptcy, were mainly economic and only marginally of a political nature.

There was no political reason to bar his extradition, the court said, adding it had no grounds to believe that Italian authorities would prosecute him for offences not recognized as crimes under Swiss law.

Motel driver's remorse

Alice Springs (Reuters) - The driver accused of murdering four people when his juggernaut lorry crashed into the bar of a motel bitterly regretted the incident, his lawyer said in court in Alice Springs yesterday.

Four people were killed instantly and 30 injured, 11 seriously, when the lorry ran into the crowded bar at Ayers Rock in Central Australia on

Thursday. A fifth victim died later of injuries.

Douglas Crabbe, aged 36, the driver, was found by police several hours after the crash on a building site about 10 miles from the motel.

No plea was entered when Mr Crabbe appeared on four counts of murder. He was remanded in custody until another hearing scheduled for September 12.

Curfew extended for Sri Lanka pageant

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

The night curfew here and in eight other districts was extended by two hours from yesterday until Sunday to enable strengthening of the security forces in the central town of Kandy where the historic annual pageant of elephants, drummers and dancers reaches its climax this weekend.

There have been intelligence reports that anti-government forces may attempt to disrupt the pageant by throwing bombs at the elephants.

Fourteen spectators died in a stampede in 1959 when an elephant went berserk after it trod on a burning coal that fell from a brazier.

In Kandy itself the curfew will be reduced by an hour to enable spectators to return

home after the show. There is a similar concession for three towns south of Colombo for a minor pageant.

Meanwhile, Mr H. W. Jayewardene, a younger brother of President Jayewardene, left yesterday to tell Asian leaders about steps being taken to restore law and order in Sri Lanka and to resettle and compensate victims of the recent communal violence in which the official death toll was 384.

Mr Jayewardene, who was the Sri Lanka Government's special envoy in discussions with the Indian Prime Minister in Delhi last week, will visit Japan, South Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

With an interest rate as good as ours, we don't have to shout about it.



Señor Merin: Sought last-minute concession.

Spain to cut back on fish catches

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain and Morocco signed a four-year fishing agreement in Rabat yesterday under which Madrid has promised to reduce progressively its catches in Moroccan waters by 40 per cent.

Spain will also pay £360m in development aid and pay 60 per cent for the licences required to fish.

After months of difficult negotiations, Señor Fernando Merin, the Spanish Foreign Minister, had to fly to Rabat on Thursday to see King Hassan and wrest from him one last-minute concession.

This will allow fishing by the Canaries fleet in the Sardinia-rich coastal waters declared a security zone by Morocco in the fight against the Saharan Polisario guerrillas, although the waters further south will be barred to Spain.

By accepting such an agreement, the Government has effectively begun the arduous task of restructuring Spain's fishing fleet.

The next task is to accept finally the terms of a fishing agreement with Portugal, after the lapse of the old one last December.

How Prague lives with the invader

Prague (AFP) - Fifteen years after Soviet tanks crushed liberal seeds sown in the Prague spring, Czechoslovaks have resumed the quiet habits under the inexorable authority of a troubled power. The anniversary of the invasion falls tonight.

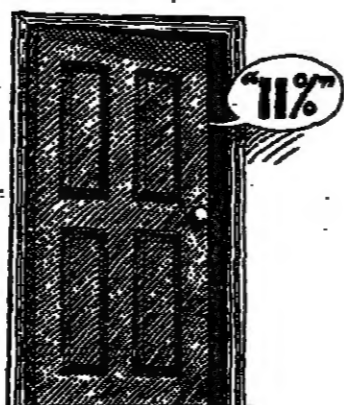
The people no longer take part in politics. They work as little as possible and live rather well, leaving a handful of dissidents to pit themselves against the regime.

Home politics have been the exclusive prerogative of the Communist Party for 35 years. Czechoslovaks no longer dispute it, going along to the "spontaneous" demonstrations to which they are invited and then counted by mass organizations.

Foreign policy has been rigidly based on lessons from Moscow, which Prague has swallowed better than any other Eastern block satellite. Criticism of the West tends to surpass even the teacher's expectations.

Yet life is good and getting better: shops are well-stocked, nobody has to queue and savings banks are overflowing. The number of television sets has doubled in the last 12 years. Foreign travel has increased and the high price of petrol does nothing to deter thousands from heading for the country and one of the longest weekends on the Continent every Friday lunchtime.

Both of Czechoslovakia's main component races gave up armed struggle against invaders centuries ago, preferring non-violent resistance. With the population leading a much better life than the Soviet invader, who is kept locked up in barracks, the Government is left to ponder how to maintain the status quo.



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Tax shock for Andorra

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Andorra, the principality lying between Spain and France in the Pyrenees, is in uproar after a vote by its Parliament to introduce income tax. The tax will mainly hit banks, financial companies and bonds.

There is talk of an appeal against the new taxes which would be paid to Andorra's co-rulers, the President of France and the Spanish Bishop of Urgel.

The Chief Minister, who had to threaten to resign to get the

proposal into the budget, only obtained 12 votes in its favour, with eight against and seven abstentions. A government crisis is not ruled out, nor are fresh elections.

Andorra's budgets previously were financed mainly of indirect taxes, which were often passed on to visitors. Now it has been hit, like everyone else, by the world recession and the effects of last November's disastrous flooding in the region.

THE TIMES DIARY

False prophets

In 1950, weather forecasts were claimed to be 90 per cent accurate, in 1969 between 70 and 80 per cent, and nowadays 85 per cent. It all depends, of course, what you mean by accurate. In *New Scientist*, Ivor Williams, a Meteorological Office employee for seven years, summarizes his own analysis of the 5.55pm radio forecast for his area, the south-west. He concludes: "Overall, the forecasts hardly seem worthwhile. They were correct on 39 occasions; doubtful on 14 occasions; in error (not serious) on 13 occasions; and failed on 27 occasions. Leaving out the 14 doubtful forecasts, the total correct was 39 out of 79, about half." Williams says the results astounded him, not only because the reports were so inaccurate, but because they were inadequate in detail and confusingly presented. Perhaps nobody else will be very surprised, though.

Must do better

Bring back school meals. A paper to be presented at the British Association for the Advancement of Science next week analyses the contents of 500 packed lunches brought to school by children in Brighton. A third were completely unsatisfactory, lacking two or more vital ingredients - usually fruit and veg. Two thirds had at least one sweetened item, such as chocolate bars, which the authors regarded as "nutritionally redundant". When they go back to school, we are urged, more cheese in the sandwiches, and a piece of fruit every day.

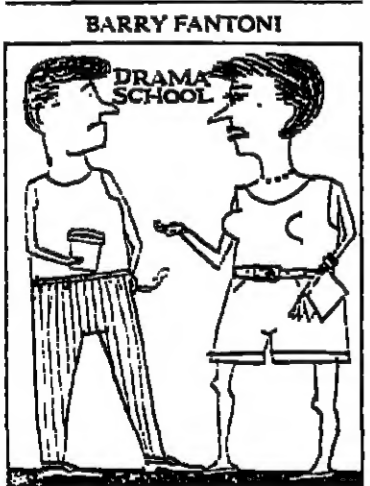
○ A PHSy was amused when he stepped into a London taxicab saying "St Mary le Bow, please". The driver, puzzled, said: "Doesn't ring a bell with me, sir."

One and only

The late Ira Gershwin allowed only one of his brother's manuscripts to pass from his possession - that of George's string quartet which he gave as a birthday present to his friend, the harmonica player Larry Adler. The performer had some difficulty, when presenting the premiere of the orchestrated version in Belfast, in spelling out the name of his benefactor.

Much binding...

DBC's *Breakfast Time* evidently thinks TV-am has taken over completely. Lord Marsh, TV-am's chairman, was roused at home yesterday morning to receive a package from the BBC, addressed to "Lord Peter Marsh". Lord Marsh's first name, of course, is Richard. The package came from Ron Neil, editor of *Breakfast Time*, with a friendly note thanking Marsh for his much appreciated contributions "here recorded for posterity". It proved to be a video recording of an advertising man called Peter Marsh, thumbing through a morning's newspapers.



BARRY FANTONI
'I'll pretend I'm famous, and you be Michael Parkinson'

Conductor!

Michel Deneuve, a musician from Paris, has heard about the difficulties of finding the Barbican. Bringing three of his glass instruments for tomorrow's free lunchtime concert of the Baschet Sound Sculptures in the Barbican Hall, Deneuve will drive from Dover. As soon as he reaches London's outskirts he will hail a taxi, tell the cabbie his destination, and then follow him.

○ Over the wash basin in the lavatory of a Canadian publishing house is a sign with the exhortation: "Think. Underneath someone has written: 'Thiapp'."

Gnoming in

Locked out of the Chelsea flower show, garden gnomes will have a Gnomers of their own at the East of England show at Peterborough over August bank holiday weekend. There will be a great gnome march from Huntingdon, a gnome hotel, a missing gnomes bureau and a Gnomes Anonymous club at which visitors can register their own gnomes, and an adoption scheme for the gnomes. There will also be a gnome hospital, in case some irritated human takes a well-directed kick at the little chaps.

A press advertisement for Agfa films has a shot of a little boy on a beach, relieving himself on the sand. Some publications, *Reader's Digest* among them, refused to run it unless the picture was retouched. The advertising agency performed the necessary function in a tickle. It is an old adage in the advertising business that the message should be kept free of riddles.

PHS

David Hewson on new doubts over the fate of First World War deserters

The men who died at dawn

The first was executed on September 8, 1914, shortly after the British Expeditionary Force's sorry retreat from Mons. A private in a Home Counties regiment who had enlisted in Dublin at the age of 17, he was discovered by a gatekeeper hiding in a barn on Baron Edwina's Rothschil's estate at Tournai. The court martial took place on September 6, the death sentence for desertion was confirmed the following day, and at 6.30am the next morning the news was conveyed to the soldier in the guardroom. Within 45 minutes he was put before a firing squad and shot.

During the next six years, until March 1920, courts martial condemned 3,080 men to death. All but 346 were reprieved. Three of those to die were officers, two for desertion, one for murder. Fourteen of the Chinese and Coloured Labour Corps were shot. The majority of those who died, 291, were imperial troops in the service of His Majesty, and all but 24 of the executions were carried out in France or Belgium.

It is an episode of British military history which has continually provoked an uneasy conscience. The suspicion that the reason behind most of the executions was simply *pour encourager les autres* has always existed. But the file against those responsible has remained unopened. The close relatives of those shot are now elderly and usually unwilling to open deep, private wounds.

The hard evidence - the transcripts of the courts martial themselves - has stayed firmly out of public view in the archives of the Ministry of Defence. All of them are subject to the 75-year rule which effectively bans their release for at least a further six years on the grounds that their contents may still offend the living relatives of the condemned.

And for those who sought to ignore the circumstantial evidence there was always the great excuse: in a war which cost 3,538,315 soldiers their lives, is there really any justification for agonizing over the fate of a mere 346, 37 of them convicted murderers, and a sizeable proportion of the rest, by the mores of the age, of dubious mettle?

The publication this autumn of *For the Sake of Example* by Anthony Babington, a circuit judge and himself a decorated veteran of the Second World War, will effectively settle the question of the propriety of those executions.

Babington's book is not startling in its conclusions. It confirms a number of deep-rooted suspicions: the commutation of death sentences, even those with recommendations of mercy, was abandoned at a

moment's notice if military objectives demanded it; rules designed to give the accused a fair hearing were flouted; many medical officers flatly refused to recognize that shell shock represented a real psychiatric condition which ought to be regarded as mitigation in cases of desertion.

Where the book finally destroys the notion of justice for the accused in the First World War is in its sources. Babington was the first writer to be given access to the trial transcripts. Even though he has been strictly bound not to name individual cases, the official records themselves have proved sufficiently damning for the case against the military bureaucracy to be established beyond reasonable doubt.

In Babington's own words: "viewed by the standards of today few of the executed men received the most elemental form of justice. They were tried and sentenced by courts which often regarded themselves as mere components of the penal process and which, until the final year of the war, were asked to perform a complex judicial function without any sort of legal guidance. The cases for the accused were seldom presented adequately and sometimes were never presented at all. If crucial matters were raised which might have established their innocence they were rarely investigated by members of the court... if soldiers accused of cowardice or of desertion in the face of the enemy had looked to the medical officers for assistance or compassion then they were likely to have looked in vain. The army doctors as a whole seem to have set themselves up as an extra branch of the provost corps, intent on securing the extreme

penalty for such offenders whenever possible."

The military necessity for exemplary executions was apparent during the winter of 1914-15 when the beleaguered BEF was suffering from a rash of desertions. A brigadier set out the rationale in a note to his divisional commander: "Every infantry officer of experience will confirm my opinion that there comes a point when men will risk imprisonment or penal servitude rather than carry on their ordinary duty... the execution of a man has a salutary effect on the bad and weak characters (in resisting temptation). The number of men likely to desert in the face of the enemy is very small and is composed of a few bad and weak characters. But if these few are able by their crime to obtain the safety and comfort of a prison their numbers will soon be swelled by others of slightly less weak character."

But viewed today, with the benefit of hindsight, the faults which led most men to the firing squad stem more from reaching a psychological breaking point than an inherent unwillingness to fight. A number had distinguished war records up to the time of the court martial, antecedents which were usually ignored.

Major-General Frank Richardson, a distinguished former army medical officer who was involved in three testing campaigns of the last war, which saw such battles as El Alamein, the invasion of Normandy, and the assault crossings of the Rhine and Elbe, comments in a postscript to the book: "Although in some of the cases described by Judge Babington the accused men were of bad character (some were mur-

derers) there remain far too many which must surely have aroused the pity of their comrades and distaste for such apparently indiscriminate punishment."

In 1930, after a tortuous path through the political machinery, legislation was passed which made treachery and mutiny the only military offences punishable with death. During the Second World War, only four executions for military offences took place, three for mutiny, and one for treachery. Babington summarizes: "One reason for this might have been that most of the higher commanders had learnt the lessons of leadership whilst serving as junior officers on the brutal and blood-soaked wastes of the Western Front. Perhaps they realized that there are better ways of controlling men in action than by resorting to a discipline of fear."

One of the most graphic descriptions of an execution on the Western Front was given by Dr. M. S. Ester who served as a medical officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Ester, as recorded in the Imperial War Museum's oral history section, was instructed to pin a piece of coloured flannel over the condemned man's heart to provide a target for the firing squad.

"Two men came and led him out of the hut where he'd been guarded all night. As he left the hut his legs gave way; then one could see the fear entering his heart. Rather than marched to the firing spot he was dragged along. When we got there he had his hands tied behind his back, he was put against a wall, his eyes were bandaged and the firing squad were given the order to fire."

"I wondered at the time: 'What on earth will happen if they miss him and they don't kill him completely? And I was very anxious about that, but when they fired he fell to the ground writhing as all people do - even if they've been killed they have this reflex action of writhing about which goes on for some minutes.'"

"I didn't know whether he was dead or not, but at that moment the sergeant in charge stepped forward, put a revolver to his head and blew his brains out."

The experience did not shake Ester. When he was asked if he thought the death penalty was justified, he replied: "I think it was absolutely essential... they (the men) would have begun to feel that you only had to walk off during a battle and then come back afterwards and you escaped death or mutilation... I think it was a necessary punishment."

For *The Sake of Example* will be published by Leo Cooper in association with Secker & Warburg, price £8.95.

against him was universally disliked. Commander Dyett later told his family that the man had fallen off with Edwin when Dyett caught him sneaking women into the training barracks at Blandford, Dorset. This piece of circumstantial evidence is backed up, remarkably enough, by the unpublished memoirs of a clerk at 189th Brigade HQ, Thomas Macmillan.

After the order for Dyett's execution was confirmed - in the face of a recommendation for mercy on two counts, his youth and inexperience and the prevailing circumstances, which would have affected any young officer - Macmillan passed the news to his superiors. Dyett was executed, and some days later records of the case crossed Macmillan's desk.

"I had only time to glance over them... but my hasty perusal sufficed to disclose to the witnesses for the prosecution were, and from that moment I resolved to shun them both, for one of them was none other than the Petty Officer who shaped so badly (in an earlier campaign), and the other an officer for whom I had a very poor regard."

Macmillan wondered if Dyett was the first martyr to the clamour from the ranks for an example to be made of an officer for desertion, a clamour, he acknowledged, which was totally justified.

"If however, they were forced to act, why did they select a mere boy for their first victim? It was obvious that the lad had been commissioned to control men before he had learned to control himself. Surely there were senior officers who had been guilty of desertion or cowardice - officers whose age, experience, and responsibility made their crime so much more reprehensible."

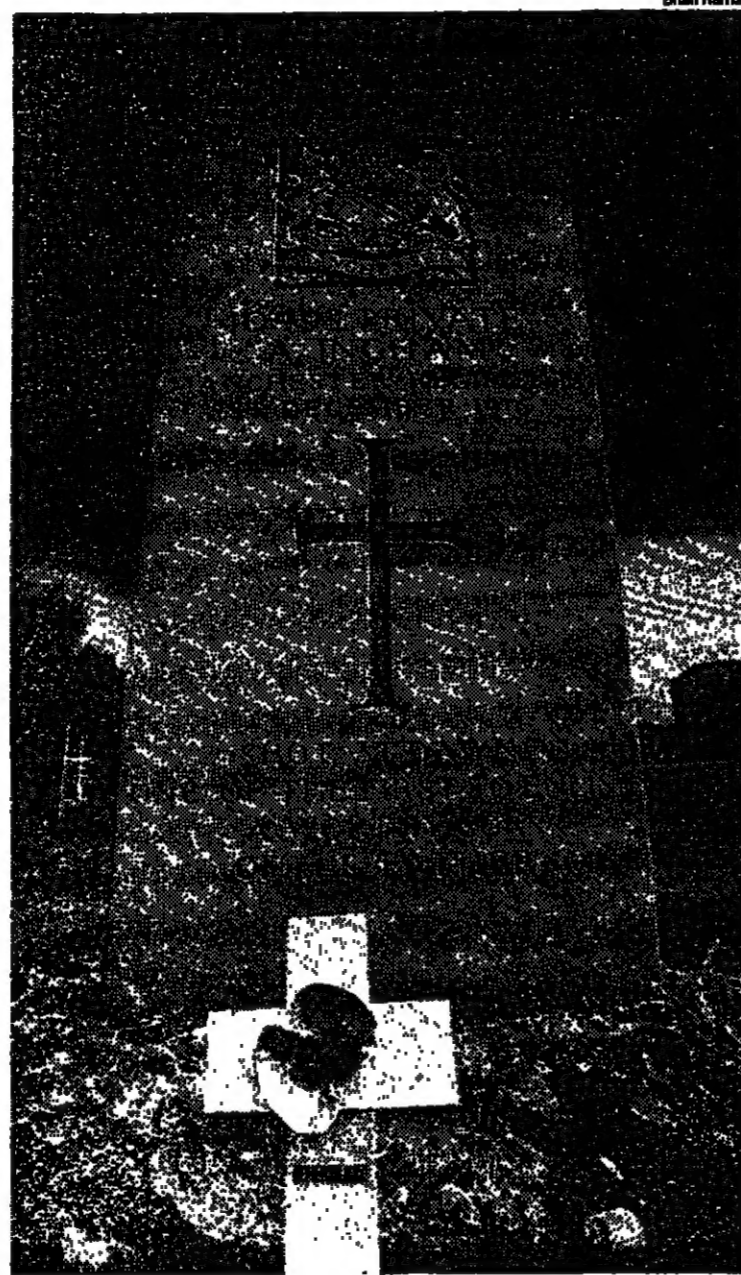
The night before his execution, Dyett wrote to his mother: "My sorrow is for the trouble I have caused you and dad. I feel for you so much and I am sorry for bringing dishonour upon you all."

The battalion chaplain, who witnessed the execution by firing squad, later wrote to Dyett's family to tell them of the burial. "I accompanied his body in an ambulance-car several miles away to a beautiful little cemetery, near a small town quite close to the sea, and here we buried him with a Church of England service."

The grave is in a communal cemetery at Le Crotoy on the Somme estuary a few miles from Abbeville. Dyett's death was later taken up by Horatio Bottomley in his magazine *John Bull*, anonymously and somewhat sentimentally. A.P. Herbert, an adjutant in another 189th brigade unit who knew most of the details of the Dyett case and discussed it with Commander Dyett after the war, used it as the basis for his book *The Secret Battle*, which documents the story of an heroic soldier who is eventually shot for desertion.

Herbert's book, in which the central character is called Harry Penrose, ends with the words: "That is the gist of it; that my friend Harry was shot for cowardice - and he was one of the bravest men I ever knew."

The public concern which followed Herbert's book and Bottomley's revelations eventually changed the law on military executions. But this brought no comfort to the Dyett family.



vessel engaged in the shipping of bananas. The Royal Naval Division was a motley collection of men, mainly reservists, which was switched to land duties and had discharged itself honourably at Gallipoli. In the spring of 1916, the division went to France, a naval body surrounded by the habits of the army. The White Ensign flew over its camps, bells recorded the passage of time, and men seeking to leave the area requested "leave to go ashore".

On the Western Front, it fitted uneasily into more conventional military territory. At the time of Dyett's trial, the division was in even greater turmoil than normal through the wounding of its commander, Major-General Sir Archibald Paris. It was an inauspicious time to launch an important offensive, but on November 12, 1916, the battle of the Ancre began. A contemporary account describes the conditions in which the men of the 189th Brigade, to which Dyett belonged, were living.

"The trenches had been planned by a short-sighted fool and destroyed by a watchful enemy... in the firing aid support lines men could only stand and freeze in the mud. Yet in these trenches half the battalions detailed for the intended assault had to live, while the other half had to carry up them and across them stores and ammunition for the innumerable dumps which would feed the advancing line of battle."



Edwin Dyett with his father: "I feel for you..."

Edmund Akenhead

A little logic with the logodaedali

Fine words may butter no parsnips, but words in general provide bread and butter for those harmless drudges (as Samuel Johnson describes them), the lexicographers and, of course, those daily deceivers the crossword compilers.

Together they provide an interesting example of symbiosis, and now that Collins Dictionaries have undertaken the sponsorship of the annual crossword championships we may expect to find the effect of crosswords on dictionaries and vice versa becoming more marked.

How about a new "usage label" to join (colloq), (slang), (joc), (derog) and (vulg) in the form of (cwp) for "crossword puzzles"? This could appear with e.g. "bower=violinist", "lower=river, Po, Exe, Fal, Ure, Dee, Lea etc.", "lower=cow", "lower=down", "lower=recovery vehicle" - it is extraordinary how many -ow words lend themselves to such duplicity.

Some dictionaries are created almost exclusively for crossword solvers and compilers. Such a one is *The Anagram Dictionary* by Michael Curd, recently published at £2.95 by Papermac, the paperback division of Macmillan. I looked to see if it had anything to add to "Derange grandee, angered and enraged by exploding grenade" and it had - the grandee should of course have been on guard; "angered" and "enraged" form what the author calls cognate anagrams, or anagrams which define each other.

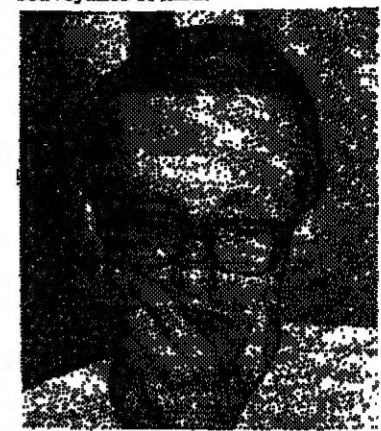
In addition to such well-known ones as "Honor est a Nilo" for "Horatio Nelson" and "Flit on, cheering angel" for "Florence Nightingale", there are some up-to-date ones. You may make your choice between "That great charmer" and "Meg, the arch tartar" (8,8) for one of these (no prizes offered). Throughout the years of the crossword championship competitors have known that the dictionaries I have relied on have been the *Concise Oxford* and the *Chambers 20th Century*. Old-time navigators used to take three chronometers to provide a majority decision should one of them fail to keep proper time, and now the *Collins English Dictionary* has been added to make a trio of referees. Solvers of Times puzzles, however, need not think that they should have all three dictionaries since it is only very rarely that a word is used that does not appear in all three. They may be relieved to hear that my own reference books do not include that magnum opus, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, my reasoning being that if a word or a spelling or a meaning is only to be found in the *OED* it is unlikely to be known to the majority of solvers.

When, early this year, I was first introduced to the *Collins English Dictionary* I turned at once to "infer" and saw to my chagrin that it included "to hint or imply" among its definitions, the said chagrin however being immediately dispensed by the following note: "Usage. The use of *infer* in the sense of *imply* often occurs in both speech and writing but is avoided by all careful speakers and writers of English". Exactly - and pausing only to check that the definitions of the verb "substitute" did not include "replace" I decided the *Collins* had the right ideas, and I found that its policy of giving almost every derivative word its own main heading made such words easier to

find than in other dictionaries in which to find (for instance) "butter-cup" you have to peruse the paragraph under "butter". Its inclusion of some proper names is also helpful.

The five regional finals organized and stage-managed by Harold Franklin, the impresario who helped to plan the original mammoth event in London in 1970, went without a hitch, and claims for alternative answers were few, and one of them was even successful at the Leeds event.

At the London A Final "Conveyance for Ulysses" (5) (G-A-T) produced GIANT under the erroneous belief that Polyphemus conveyed Ulysses somewhere, and also GRAFT on the ground that a graft is a conveyance of something from Place A to Place B (eg a skin-graft) and that Ulysses was carried on a G (reek) RAIT: ingenious in that Ulysses left Calypso's island on a raft which he, a Greek, had made, but the dictionary abbreviations for "Greek" are Gr and Gk not G, and so this claim also was unsuccessful. The answer was (Ulysses Simpson) GRANT, a grant also being a conveyance of land.



John Sykes, crossword champion

Talking of giants, among the 19 other finalists whom Tony Sever, the reigning champion since 1981, will be meeting will be James Atkins, runner-up in the original 1970 championship and himself champion in 1971 and on one subsequent occasion, and the redoubtable Dr John Sykes, who, being a lexicographer, has naturally won the championship more often than anyone else. There are two women finalists, Mrs Anne Bradford and Miss Joan Todd, the runners-up in the London A and B regional finals, who will be bidding to end the run of male successes.

The National Final of the Collins Dictionary-Times Crossword Championship takes place at the Park Lane Hotel, London, on Sunday September 4. There will be accommodation for up to 300 spectators at £2 a head, who are asked to arrive in good time to be seated by 1.30pm. Spectators will be given the puzzles to solve and there will be prizes for the first correct solutions handed in (no one to win more than once).

It is planned to fill in spare moments between the four main puzzle sessions. The entry fee will also cover light refreshments. It is expected that the final prize-giving will take place at about 5.15pm.

The author is Crossword Editor of *The Times*. He retires this autumn after 18 years.

Peter Nichols

A new view from the rectory

From Clee to Heaven the beacon burns,
The shires have seen it plain,
From north to south the sign returns
And beacons burn again.

From the steep hill beside the rectory one can see, on a clear day 15 miles to the south-east, Clee Hill. Where Housman's beacon celebrated Victoria's jubilee. And on such a day this week we climbed to the Iron Age fort, with its three eroded ramparts, and stared west towards the Welsh hills then south along the Clun valley, coming round at last to the white radar sphere on distant Clee.

Our visitor thought this Shropshire and Welsh borders landscape as perfect as he'd seen anywhere. The bleat of a stray ewe and coughing of a pheasant were the only sounds to break the profound afternoon peace until - with a sudden shriek and roar - two jet fighters hurtled from the south. They almost touched the ancient bastion where we stood, banking up the valley to make their turn about Montgomery. Instantly silence fell again. Our friend had thrown himself down and lay cowering.

What is that terrifying sound
If not a bolt from God?
Pray, stretch yourselves upon the ground,
Ay, hold fast to the sod.

Tis not from God, we made reply,
More like from Norfolk way;
It takes no time for jets to fly
That far twelve times a day.

From Fenland flat those RAF-jads scream
To blue-remembered hills.
They give new sense to Housman's dream
About an air that kills.

Ah, tis not for the scenery!
No, Jack, they come from Fen
To dodge the radar up on Clee -
Ooops, here they come again!

Those fighters tore the sky in two,
My friend, he said a prayer,
Twas not for lads in airforce blue
Nor Johnny-head-in-air.

We watched them graze the vale of Clun

To pass their tests at Clee,
"I trust," said Jack, "they fright the Huns
For, God, they frighten me!"

I said, "Would 't were the Russians
That had us by the ears;
Nay, lad, tis more the Russians
That F-for-Freddie fears."

"Doist mean they've got their eyes on
You Ludlow Town afar?"
He scanned the blue horizon -
"What's got into the Tas?"

"No Tasar," said I, "nor Romanov
Lusts for Ludlow Town;
Nay, tis the likes of Andropov
Would bring all England down -

"And Scotland brave and Wales the bold,
Not only Ludlow Town."
"For why?" quoth Jack, "since I've
been told

We're but a third-class pow'r."

"For missiles good and steady
Housed here by the Yank.
Behind each F-for-Freddie
You'll find an Aitch-for-Hank."

"Our land's an aircraft carrier
From Looe to Abbeville -
Below docks Hawk and Harrier,
Above a country scene."

And now he smote his forehead,
Did simple-minded Jack
"Then tis but Yankee warhead
That makes us fear attack!"

I stood upon the Iron Age fort
And laughed at honest Jack.
His brow was furrowed deep with thought -
When "Christ! they're coming back!"

This fighter blew off poor Jack's hat,
It frightened even me.
Said he: "While we've got friends like that
We need no enemy."

In valleys of springs of rivers
By Oxy and Teme and Clun,
The country for easy livers,
The quietest under the sun.

The author's most recent play, *Poppy*, was produced by the RSC last year.



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THE SOVIET CHALLENGE: III

A realistic assessment of Moscow's policies is the first step towards organizing a coherent defence. The need for an adequate military budget is generally acknowledged, even if the precise level and distribution of expenditure is hotly debated. Less widely realized, however, is that armed force is only one of the options pursued by the Soviet leaders to promote what they argue is an inevitable transition from capitalism to Soviet-style socialism.

The numerous Soviet espionage operations uncovered in the West are dismissed by many as no worse than the activities of Western intelligence services against the USSR. Yet unlike the closed society of the USSR the very freedoms enjoyed by the public in the West make it open to penetration. When spies are discovered in top-secret government departments, proposals for positive vetting are debated but widely dismissed as unnecessary. Agents of influence are revealed in government, business, and media circles but are usually regarded as insignificant in their impact on policy. Of course it would be absurd to try to defend Western values by suppressing freedom: but the only alternative is to make every effort to expose and combat the damage caused by negligence.

The Soviet authorities go to great effort and expense to spread misleading propaganda. British schools and colleges receive free of charge *Novosti* periodicals and booklets, exaggerating every positive aspect of Soviet life and suppressing all the shortcomings, while at the same time crudely distorting the policies of Western governments. Much of this material is primitive, even counter-productive. Yet when even the respected *Encyclopaedia Britannica* contains entries by Soviet authors which are far from presenting life in the USSR as it really is, the need for some

effective counter-measures becomes clear.

It makes little sense to spend the country's wealth on weapons of mass destruction which, as deterrents, it is hoped never to use, while simultaneously trying to economize by reducing the educational budget for Russian studies or cutting the external services of the BBC. Education about the Soviet system and information about its impact on world events form a vital part of our defence and are cheap in comparison with tanks and missiles.

The repeated acts of Soviet repression in the countries of Eastern Europe refine the theory that by expanding trade based on cheap credit it might prove possible to woo them from the Soviet empire. Moscow has retained control, while the Western banking system has suffered considerable losses. Other approaches seem more hopeful in pursuing some loosening of the Soviet grip. By the Helsinki Accords and other international agreements the West has the right, indeed the duty, to expand the flow of information, encouraging free thought, supporting those who campaign for human rights and furthering the drive to establish independent trade union movements.

With Soviet troops fighting in Afghanistan it would be valuable to extend Western broadcasting to the major nationalities not yet covered by programmes in their own languages. The clandestine *Samizdat* journals are already questioning why nations in the USSR which are themselves suffering from oppression should send their sons to die in a colonialist war. These doubts can be given much wider circulation through radio broadcasts. Moscow denounces truthfulness and psychological warfare, but it is sufficient response to cite by way of contrast the

distorted Soviet broadcasting on Northern Ireland. Western society thrives on open debate, while the Soviet leadership fears all free discussion.

Coordination of military defence has largely been achieved through Nato, but there is little sign of a coherent policy on economic matters. The US-Soviet grain deals, the gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe, supplying high technology on low-interest loans, are only a few of the many issues on which agreement has been sadly lacking. The United States, Western Europe and Japan must act in closer cooperation if the threat of sanctions is to have any restraining influence on Soviet expansionism. Measures to prevent Soviet acquisition of technology with military applications should be strengthened. Even if restricted materials can still be acquired by illegal means, the cost to Moscow in scarce hard currency is greatly increased.

In economic aid to the Third World the Soviet record is poor: the USSR is better able to supply weapons and promote conflict. New Marxist-Leninist regimes benefit from Soviet experience in preserving their political power, but Moscow is not a useful source of advice or aid in solving economic problems. The West has much more to offer, and could preempt Soviet involvement by promoting economic development and democratic government in countries threatened by internal strife. Too often ignorance of local politics has led to incorrect assessments and failure to act in time.

The countries of the West have many faults, but they also have the freedom to discuss and correct them. We have no walls or fences to stop mass emigration; our problem, on the contrary, is to stem immigration from less fortunate lands. To continue to prosper, however, we need foresight and resolution, and we need them now.

THE ENGLISHNESS OF KUNSTGESCHICHTE

Hitler's bombers destroyed many buildings England would like still to have. But Hitler's Jew-baiters gave England a man who has taught us to read those that remain, and those that have sprung up since, with a fresh and accurate eye. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, who has just died, was one of those great spirits who made English culture an indebted beneficiary of the tragic persecution of German Jewry.

In his field alone are the refugee names of Wittkower, Wind, the Warburg Institute itself which was removed from Hamburg to London in 1936, and Sir Ernst Gombrich who came with it as a young research assistant. They have transformed the academic study of art here, and Pevsner, even more than the others, imparted motion to the rolling revolution of retrospective taste.

He was already a student of English art and architecture when he fled Germany in 1934. He came equipped with the formidable apparatus of the German school of art history. He found here material for its exercise that seemed naturally suited to his sensibility. "The Englishness of English Art" he called his Reith lectures. He, the foreign refugee, was that quality's acutest analyst and historian, his vision made all the more sensitive by observation of continental European styles and periods. In the *Buildings of England* series for Penguin the Teutonic method went to work

on the vernacular of the rambling English countryside, an ominous collision. But whether the method relented or the material pulled itself together, the outcome is a perfect blend and a source of unfailing pleasure.

Every county of England (the old, the proper counties); from Cornwall to Staffordshire by way of Gilbert Scott, Allen Lane of Penguins deserves much of the credit for making it so that the great gazetteer was not merely a library reference book but went out and about in hand and pocket. It is a pity that the Penguin series of the series of soft covers part way through. The early paperbacks cost less, weigh less, slip into the pocket and even hold together - they must have had good glue in those days.

From the habit of consulting these volumes you learn to read a building, through an exemplary medium of concise description. Pevsner had no time to waste and he wastes none of his readers' with irrelevant details or ornamental prose. Every building described he (or, in the case of a few counties towards the end, his collaborating editors) had seen. His notes fit it on the page. Used as a *valde-mecum* the *Buildings* is a weaver of detours and makes you late for every appointment.

Nor is the doctor as dry as he is sometimes thought. Sample

him on the subject of the little church of St Mary at Lawton in Essex. He is standing in the fourteenth-century chancel.

The large N and S windows of three lights have eight different tracery patterns of which at least five are quite unusual and must probably be credited to the imagination of this particular master mason.

The easternmost N window has instead of foliage two chains of little men. They dance, wrestle, play musical instruments, hold each other by their feet.

The spandrels again are full of figures, their heads broken off by vandals. Some are angels making music on the portable organ, psalmist, gittern, organistrum (hurdy-gurdy) and harp.

Precision matches the rising excitement. And you can tell he is excited because there follows one of his rare sentences (asides (of which a small treasury ought to be compiled). A *reterodo* (by C. F. Hayward, 1884) seeks to outdo in alabaster the magnificence of the medieval stone-work. "It needs all the Victorian self-confidence not to restrain oneself in the presence of so much ornamental carving as the interior of the chancel displays."

To come upon such wonder in a village church standing among corn fields above the river Stour... that the record of tens of thousands of other such discoveries, and a way of looking, is Pevsner's gift to his adopted country.

Latvian nationalism

From Mr. Andrei Dubrovsky
Sir, Nationalism is "the most powerful chemical solvent" which is going to bring the Soviet Union crashing down in ruins, writes Mr. Bernard Levin in his article on Soviet Latvia (August 5). Very dramatic Mr. Levin - will the Soviet Union survive until next week?

Well, the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic was certainly doing fine the week Mr. Levin was typing out his awful prophecies of doom. I was there, on holiday, just prior to coming to London. I can report that all appeared calm and I found the people proud, hospitable and - dare say it - happy. Living standards in Latvia seemed to me, if anything, higher than in other parts of the Soviet Union.

But what about the ruthless crushing of Latvian nationalism? Latvian as a language is compulsory in schools and all other educational establishments. There are nine professional theatres, national film studios and TV and radio channels all using the Latvian language. For a population of 2.5 million there are 49 newspapers and 51 magazines in Latvian and around 13 million books published each year in the national language.

Incidentally, a remark made to me by an old man in Riga remains in my mind. "We did not establish

Soviet power here in 1940," he said. "We restored it. We proclaimed the Soviet Republic of Latvia in 1918. That puts a slightly different perspective on Mr. Levin's assertions of a Soviet seizure of Latvia in 1940 (not 1941).

Really, Mr. Levin should not believe all the highly coloured tales in the publications he receives from emigre sources around the world. His hatred of any country seems to obliterate his knowledge of the basic journalistic principle of checking sources.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREI DUBROVSKY,
Novosti Press Agency,
3 Rossary Gardens, SW7,
London W8.

Quality of teaching

From Mr. J. R. Northeast
Sir, There can be no disguising the unease that will arise from the Secretary of State for Education's latest intentions. The report from your Education Correspondent (August 11) is very disturbing to those in the sharp end of school operation.

Presumably, very large schools such as this one comprise large and more varied resources than others. Nevertheless, the economics department here is already run off its feet with very large classes,

especially at the very demanding A level. In no way can time be spared for general class teaching by these specialists.

Who, therefore, will teach these so-called economic "facts of life"? Teachers in cognate areas such as sociology and history are unlikely to welcome this opportunity. We are then faced with a teaching activity of less than good quality.

Further, if history has sometimes raised doubts concerning exposure to bias, what a fruitful field is offered by economic doctrines. Lastly, as your correspondent so rightly points out, what do we throw out in order to make room for this?

There is already a very wide gulf between those who make and control broad policy in Westminster and those who execute it at the other end. I remain equally concerned that the Prime Minister's new education adviser seems to have no working experience of education below university level. This cannot be good.

Good institutions, whether schools or companies, are always improved by consultation. There seems to be a marked absence of this in these two latest decisions.

Yours very truly,
J. R. NORTHEAST,
Headmaster,
Pembroke School,
Bush,
Pembroke,
August 12.

Familiar ring of empire building

From Mr. Matthew Parris, MP for Derbyshire West (Conservative)
Sir, It is amusing to run through today's leading article "The Soviet Challenge" (August 18) reading "1883" for "1983" and "The British Empire" for "The Soviet Union".

The references to Afghanistan sound familiar. The reference to Czechoslovakia would be out of place - but then the South African War (self-defence, of course) still lay ahead. We were quickly elbowing our way into Southern Rhodesia at the time.

The attention you devote to the repressive domestic policy of the Great Power would be inappropriate: we were a free people, and it is interesting to ask whether that made us less dangerous to the foreign governments which got in our way.

When speed limits fail to save lives

From Dr Robert Reid

Sir, How effective is your reported reduction (August 13) in the 70 mph speed limit for coaches likely to be?

Most modern vehicles can and do travel on motorways at speeds far greater than the law allows. Any unusually law-abiding motorist who drives on the inside lane of a motorway at less than 70 mph will frequently find himself being overtaken by a fully-laden heavy lorry driven at 80 mph, which is in turn being overtaken by a fully laden coach driven at 90 mph.

When a vehicle collides with an object - a car or a group of human beings - is related to the energy dissipated on impact. This energy is directly proportional to the square of the velocity of the vehicle. So a coach weighing 10 times more than a passenger car and moving at 70 mph compared with a car's 50 mph needs to dissipate on impact about 20 times as much energy.

For a coach moving at 90 mph the figure is more than 30 times. It is little wonder, therefore, that the extent of human injury from coach collisions is so devastating, and more than likely that a general reduction in the speed of heavy vehicles would save a considerable number of lives.

The effectiveness of any new measure ultimately depends on the ability not just to set a speed limit but to impose it. However, present control is largely dependent on a driver's consciousness of some notional figure and therefore can never be properly effective. One solution is to impose a more thorough policing system - but there are others. A simple technical device

Loophole in Act

From Mr. Toby Eckersley

Sir, Lord Harris of Greenwich (feature, August 9) complains about Islington Council's abuse of its powers in granting licences to a co-operative to engage in producing a newspaper favouring the council's political views, and accuses the Government of opening a loophole for this expenditure. His concern is academic.

The alleged loophole arises in connection with powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act where total expenditure in any one year is limited to the product of a 2p rate. But Section 142 permits unlimited expenditure on information and publicity.

If the co-operative route did not exist, Islington would follow Southwark's example and take on its own staff to engage in precisely the same activity. A wider review of local government powers in this area is urgently called for.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY ECKERSLEY,
London Borough of Southwark,
Town Hall,
Peckham Road, SE5,
August 9

Computerized markets

From Mr. R. S. Musgrave

Sir, I second your suggestion (August 10) that the Met Office and British Telecom come together to provide a weather information service that is paid for via the telephone bill. But British Telecom should do the same for anyone wanting to provide information for a fee over the phone.

For example, placing a small ad in a newspaper and ploughing through columns of such ads is a very inefficient method of matching buyer and seller compared to the speed with which a computer can do the job. But computerized markets like this will not really come into their own until there is an equally cheap method for information providers to pay the information provider that is by crediting the telephone account of one and debiting that of the other.

The information revolution which is upon us will be hampered unless the above is implemented.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MUSGRAVE,
24 Garden Avenue,
Framwellgate Moor,
Durham.

Treating people - and the community

From the Chairman of the Chiropractic Advancement Association

Sir, My association, which represents the interests of chiropractic patients, welcomes the BMA's inquiry into alternative forms of health treatment and shares its concern about some of the claims made and methods used by paramedical practitioners.

The main problem facing the BMA is that it appears to have a vested interest in the results of the inquiry, which will thus be regarded with suspicion by those active in the medical profession, a scepticism encouraged by the very short time allowed for filing evidence.

I would suggest that the most appropriate forum for investigating the claims and scope of alternative health care systems is a parliamentary select committee. It would be able to call for and question reasoned evidence, calling for technical help on scientific assessments drawn from the medical profession and elsewhere.

The New Zealand Government appointed a commission of inquiry into chiropractic, under a leading QC, and its members went round the world to gather evidence and to hear views from and on chiropractors. In New Zealand a public hearing was held, at which evidence from all parties was subject to argument by counsel.

The process was long but the report was thorough and its recommendations balanced the interests of medical practitioners, chiropractors and the public. This, believe it or not, is the model we should look to here.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR EARL, Chairman,
The Chiropractic Advancement Association,
32 Trevelyan Way,
Berkhamstead,
Hertfordshire.

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations
Sir, Your leader, "Physician, heal thyself" (August 10), comments upon growing public interest in

alternative treatments for disease which contrast with the ungenerous attitude of much of the medical world to such alternatives. Another fast-growing dimension to health care which often provokes a similarly hostile reaction from the medical profession is community health.

Community health initiatives are, in the main, a reaction to a National Health Service that is overwhelmingly a service to the sick rather than a service to keep people healthy. The sickness service dominates political debate about the nation's health and it devours the vast majority of resources allocated to health.

There are, today, well over one thousand community health groups. They are concerned with the prevention of ill-health through suitable diet and exercise, health education, pre and post-natal care, sharing experience of the management of, for example, depression or drug dependency, or mental illness, women's health needs and so on.

It has been argued that some acute hospital services might be transferred to the community; for example that a proportion of heart attack victims derive little benefit from hospital treatment and that many current surgical operations could be on an outpatient basis or with overnight admission only.

I am glad that the DHSS has recently funded a unit to provide Community Health Initiatives with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

One of our goals is to win the co-operation of the medical profession so that community health initiatives, as much as alternative treatments for ill-health, can be seen to be a complementary part of a service that might then more appropriately be called a national health service.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.

LSO's programming

From the Chairman of The London Symphony Orchestra

Sir, Having just returned from a highly successful visit to the Salzburg Festival it is with some dismay that we hear from Mr. Bryan Appleby, (July 25) that we could be responsible for "radical upheaval" and "profound consequences" in the serious music industry as a result of our current negotiations with The Barbican Centre about our future artistic policy in our home in the City of London.

We are indeed in the process of negotiating our future in The Barbican. As the only London orchestra with a home we have built on this privilege and keenly feel our responsibility and artistic commitment to the City of London and to our audiences.

Our "lack lustre" list of conductors in the last year has included our music director, Claudio Abbado, Sir Colin Davis, Rafael Kubelik and Bolshoi director Yuri Simonov. Our "poor programming" has included two performances of Stockhausen's masterpieces for three orchestras *Gruppen* which is rarely attempted anywhere in the world, a Brahms cycle and a number of other "unpopular" but season's outstanding musical events" (*The Guardian*), and all the major works of Tippett and Berlioz.

Our first commitment is an artistic one. Since everything we have done so far has been breaking new ground, some ideas have inevitably worked better than others. We are obviously considering a closer identity with The Barbican and we are continuously researching the questions of programming, starting times, promotion, audience development and education.

If we were to settle down to a steady diet of only Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, complacently played to happily full houses, we would be sadly lacking in fulfilling our role of the resident orchestra of a major concert hall and failing bodies such as the City of London Corporation, the Arts Council and the GLC whose invaluable support has made our Barbican seasons possible. Not least we would be failing our public. These considerations far outweigh the audience numbers game.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CAMDEN, Chairman,
London Symphony Orchestra,
Barbican Centre,
Barbican, EC2.

Dover's Powder

From Mr. C. B. Perry

Sir, Philip Howard ("Elbow room for doctors", August 9) is hardly fair to Dr Thomas Dover.

Dover never claimed to have treated Sydenham for smallpox. On the contrary, in his book, *The Ancient Physician's Legacy to his Country*, first published in 1732, he states (pages 119-120) that Sydenham treated him for smallpox and that the treatment he received, and which he recommends, consisted of more or less of vitriol (sulphuric acid) but of 12 bottles of small-beer (probably very different from our beer) acidulated with spirit of vitriol every 24 hours.

This suggests that Sydenham was well aware of the risk of dehydration to a febrile patient.

Dover's book was an 18th-century best-seller and there were six editions before his death in 1742.

Yours faithfully,
C. BRUCE PERRY,
Bechfield,
34 Grove Road,
Coombe Dingle, Bristol.

Manicheism on Mexico

From the Mexican Ambassador

Sir, Not without considerable surprise I found your paper indulging in undisguised manicheism (leader, August 13). Everything that my Government is doing deserves your editorial wrath.

Our Central American policy needs no justification. Regardless of many European countries including Great Britain have supported it, you blatantly affirm that Mexico's stand is nearsighted and dangerous. Undeterred by history, you vigorously wave the domino theory as if a country with the profound culture of Mexico could not rely on its manifold spiritual values.

Mexico's bilateral relations with the US are no better. A lack of vision seems to be the Mexican lot. And your editorial conveniently forgets that without the constant and continued lowering of the prices of basic commodities, upon which the

Third World relies, or the catastrophic rise in interest rates, Mexico would have easily avoided its present financial straits.

All the blame for the "wet-backs" is also put on Mexico. Nothing is said about the unprovoked and unjust commercial boycott of Mexican products which has caused further unemployment; nor about the constant refusal of the US government legally to protect the basic human rights of foreign workers. And the faulty situation remains, and my compatriots continue to be wilfully and unmercifully exploited.

The remarks your editorial makes about the Mexican system of government worry me a great deal. I wonder if your correspondent in Mexico City is keeping abreast of developments. One quarter of the membership of the Chamber of Deputies, and purely on overall rating percentages, goes to parties in the opposition, which have created an active parliamentary life. This,

Salmon in danger

From Mr. T. D. Thompson

Sir, Mr. E. J. Lipscombe's letter on Scottish salmon stocks (August 12) calls for quick and decisive action by the new Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He does not mention the Secretary of State for Scotland (equally new) within whose authority decisions affecting Scottish salmon stocks are made.

The whole subject of salmon is a pot-pourri of a few observed facts and an enormous welter of opinion - scientific and otherwise. It is not surprising that the government departments charged with the administration of the salmon laws (which are over 100 years old and at least 20 years out of date) are loath to initiate changes when every expert opinion they hear is challenged by other, equally convinced, experts.

The Salmon & Trout Association are vitally interested in this question and our policy is based on three salient facts:

1. The real-terms market price of salmon has fallen very considerably in recent years as farmed fish take a growing share of a slow-growing, or even static, demand.
2. The existing salmon laws were formulated before angling for salmon became a popular activity which now contributes infinitely more to rural economies in Scotland, Wales and parts of England than netting does.
3. People (like Mr. Lipscombe) who made annual contributions to those economies are finally becoming discouraged.

The Salmon & Trout Association must take the conservative view that the UK's salmon resource will not increase significantly beyond its present levels. Those levels are still high enough to support buoyant local economies based on visiting anglers and the law (which should be applicable throughout the UK,

including Scotland) should have as its primary object the protection and enhancement of salmon angling as the most important application of this valuable national resource.

This does not mean that the netting industry should be abolished. Its importance in today's overall management of the salmon resource (ie "conservation"), however, is overdue for hard re-examination.

The problem which must be faced, if our salmon resource is not finally to be abandoned to the casual and the illegal, is whether a relatively few people in the netting industry are more important than the many whose livelihoods are dependent on the "frivolous" pursuit of salmon by a growing number of anglers.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. THOMPSON, Director,
The Salmon & Trout Association,
Fishmongers Hall, EC4A,
August 12.

Burton's tomb

From the Rev James Tolthurst

Sir, A recent correspondent (July 6) expressed concern about the condition of the Burton mausoleum in our cemetery, which receives its fair share of visitors due to its unusual design.

It ought to be pointed out that this is a private cemetery which was used by many leading Catholic families in the last century and that our policy has been to allow free access without charge, including guide where required. (The church contains a memorial window to Sir Richard Burton, which many visitors miss).

Our problem, in common with many private owners of Britain's heritage, is general maintenance. There is unfortunately a vicious circle connecting visitors with charges. The alternative is to launch the ubiquitous appeal. It might surprise people to know that our neighbours, St Mary the Virgin, need £25,000 to landscape a smaller area.

However, thanks to the generosity of parishioners who have donated their time and energy, we have greatly improved the appearance of our cemetery and hope that visitors will admire other tombs apart from our most famous resident.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES TOLTHURST,
St Mary Magdalen Presbytery,
North Worplesdon, SW14.

Pure bunkum

From Mr. Kevin Redpath

Sir, An item in your issue of today contained the following cryptic list of additives: E102, E127, E202, E282, E321, E332, E407, E471, E472a and E472c. Does this indicate a slight decline in the sensitivity of the British palate?

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
KEVIN REDPATH,
Chingale,
Glastonbury,
Somerset.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

THE ARTS

Concerts

BBCSO/Howarth Albert Hall/Radio 3

The first half of Thursday's Prom, long though it was, showed masterly design in projecting us in stages out of the suffocation of a heatwave. Albert Hall. First there was a jaunty down the road to Hammarath, for Holst's spongy, pompous prelude and scherzo in its original scoring for military band.

After this it was out into the country to hear Vaughan Williams's *Lark Ascending*, and to hear the bird indeed in Iona Brown's beautiful playing of the violin solo. There was the feel of feather in the touch of her bow, something perfectly formed and soft, yet very present, and her aerial phrasing was alive and right in every detail, not least the personal addition to a glissando to prove one was not imagining it all.

Then, mounting in orchestral size, duration and every other dimension, the concert moved from an idealized Norfolk to an idealized everywhere in David Lumsdaine's *Hagoromo*. This was commissioned by the BBC and first played by its symphony orchestra in Paris six years ago, but somehow it had never happened in Britain before, which has been very much our loss, indeed, not for quite some years, since the first performance of Peter Maxwell Davies's *A Mirror of Whiteness* Light, have I heard a new orchestral piece so stunning and so rich in new experience.

The only thing wrong with it is its ugly title, borrowed from a nob play that provided some

initial stimulus. In the play, according to Lumsdaine, an angel dances for two fishermen and reveals to them anew the beauty of the natural world. What happens in the composition is that the orchestra is made to dance, and to reveal, for itself and for its audience, its own beauty in a thousand new colours and shapes. There are sheets of string and wind tone dappled with pitched percussion as a Klimt is dappled with gold. There are tangled, tendril-like growths in the large woodwind ensemble, distant summonses from muted trumpets, glittering cascades from a body of seven metallophones and xylophones.

There are also two features that keep the work from being the empty self-indulgent fantasy all this might imply. The first is that Lumsdaine's imaginary landscape has a searching, critical human presence, noticeable at moments of aggression in the drums or more generally in the angular melody. The second is that *Hagoromo* follows very much its own course.

With these materials Lumsdaine could easily have created a much more "successful" piece: the boos mixed with the cheers at the end were a measure of his achievement in avoiding any resounding rhetoric in favour of huge harmonic movements that simply disappear into the background. He is unlikely to be better played than they were here by the BBC SO under Elgar Howarth, but they will surely be emerging again soon.

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Rattle Festival Hall

Simon Rattle set out on Thursday to bring his orchestra's Sibelius cycle to London and South Bank Summer Music; and he set out right at the stark, dark heart of the of the composer with the Fourth Symphony.

Only an orchestra with the music of Sibelius so deep under its skin as the City of Birmingham Symphony (the cycle was recently performed by it at the Warwick Arts Centre) could have penetrated that heart so deeply. Each solo part had been sifted to a weight and density perfectly to articulate each raw line, and then blended in patterns of texture and harmonic movement which can still deeply shock the system.

It was Sibelius's high regard for Berlioz that came to mind in the last movement - from the first searing violin phrase to the mocking case of the woodwind flurries, a caprice written with the point of a needle if ever there were one.

The other symphony of the evening, about the same length but with twice as many notes, was No 1 in E minor: the second and third follow on Sunday. Its no less extraordinary beginning seemed folded in one long gesture to the first great fortissimo chord; and it was Rattle's ability to pace, modify and control each climax throughout the work that gave

this performance so much of its draining intensity.

To single out any section of an orchestra in as fine form as the CBSO may seem perverse; but it was a rare pleasure to hear a body of strings freed to let the score speak through them rather than vice versa - whether brushing the second movement into life or biting into the finale's surging momentum.

Rather like a Russian doll, a second concert was hidden inside what was already quite enough to digest for one evening. But, unlike the doll, Jessye Norman's orchestral song recital was by no means the next size down.

Three Strauss songs of rest, including a "Wiegand" remarkable for its sustained mezzo voice, moulded exquisitely by family perceptive ruse of voice and solo instrument, were framed by two exultant paucans of praise: "Zueignung" and "Cécile", in place of the advertised *Four Last Songs*.

Hilary Finch

Opera

Rigoletto Coliseum

New York weather outside, New York inside the Coliseum, with a montage of sleazy bars, mafioso rivalries, fast romance from *West Side Story* and dingy plotted murder from *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, B-movie stories and twisted characters, all sewn together by the ingenious musical skill of Jonathan Miller, and - unaccountably - all set to music by Giuseppe Verdi a century ago.

Miller's *Rigoletto* is back and brilliantly effective both as melodrama and music. Whether Miller's transformation makes the opera more telling remains a

moot point - betrayal and double-crossing is after all the everyday expectation in this set-up - but I had not realized from previous reports quite how tellingly designed the show is by Patrick Robertson and Rosemary Vercoe and how well lit in this revival by Roger Frith.

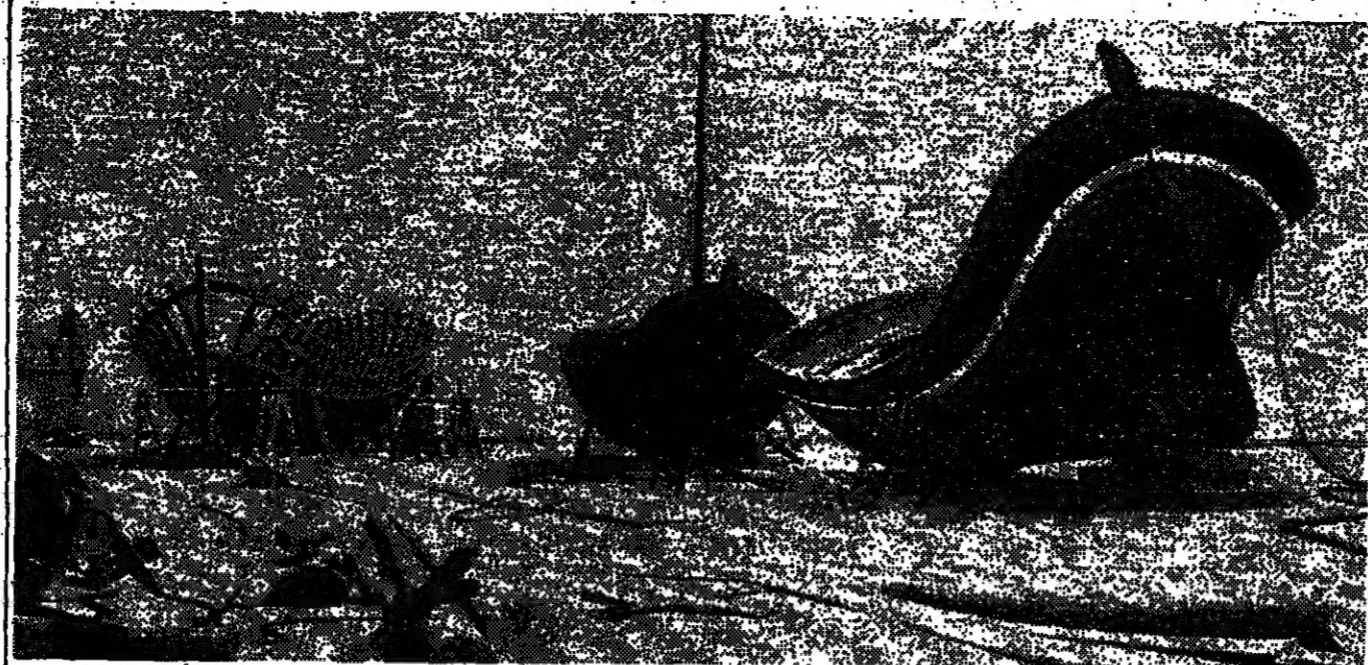
New to the cast is Helen Field, a Gilda from Opera North making her debut here, though one could not have guessed that from the way her tiny, frail figure fits like a glove into every scene: the fine, warm voice may not yet be perfectly controlled but every note is acted through, and her ensemble both with the Duke and with Rigoletto had a rare unanimity of purpose.

Nicholas Kenyon

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Galleries Oh for something slightly different



Reaches and the objects normally found on them - "Shipbuilding at Peniche" (1948 - section)

A Timeless Journey: Tristram Hillier, RA Royal Academy

Most cinema films are diminished by being seen on television, but a few are, surprisingly, improved. In much the same way, most paintings lose in reproduction, but there are a few which are actually flattered by the process. Those of Delil, for one, but also, it would seem, those of Tristram Hillier, a comprehensive collection of whose work is now in the Diploma Galleries of the Royal Academy under the title *A*

Timeless Journey (until September 18, after which the show goes to Hull and Preston).

Tristram Hillier died earlier this year, at the age of 78. He was always a quiet painter, working over and over a few pet themes: beaches and the objects normally found on them; the English countryside on a sunny day in winter, with bare branches outlined against an eggshell blue sky.

As this memorial show makes clear to us, he hit his stride early on, and never really broke it thereafter. In the very earliest paintings, such as *Nudes in Bedroom* of 1929, we can see the possibility of other lines of

development, a faint hint that he might, had he wished, have become Ceri Richards instead. But by the early 1930s he had settled on the hard finish, the crystalline clarity of light which bathes his landscapes and still-lives, and never seemed tempted to modify his technique subsequently. His subject matter did change slightly. At first he went in for obviously bizarre juxtapositions of objects which made his surrealist affiliations evident, but later the surrealistic side of the content was subsumed or at least made to seem accidental.

This slight change of emphasis apart, there is little to

distinguish a Hillier of the late 1960s from one of the early 1930s. This does undoubtedly give a certain air of sameness to the whole show; one comes to long for something slightly different. And yet, with the recent Algonquin Newton show, for example, where just the same strictures ought to have applied, Newton's minor variations on the same stucco-in-the-sunset views always retained their magic. There is astonishingly little magic in Hillier: the deliberately cut-and-dried manner all too often produces a rather flat, prosaic result.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Comic Roots (BBC 1) was a sunny, summery little programme, about a sunny and quintessentially summery little chap, Billy Dainty (and how pleasant to meet him) seems recognizable everywhere by an incredulous smile under mobile black brows, a voice with a Frankie Howard rasp, and irredeemably comic legs. With a fine bouquet of ancient snaps and the bare minimum of mawkish revisiting ("This was me mother's shop") he led us gently up the long road from being the only boy in a troupe of Dancing Babs to being

profiled at peak viewing time.

Billy had, and has, a sister (and how pleasant to meet her) now called Betty Reeves. Meeting them at 48 felt very much as it must have done at eight: the bright-eyed pair in the early pictures looked just as knowing as the bright-eyed adults who sang "My Old Dutch" and other pub favourites by the piano in the studio. Together they headed for dancing lessons in London during the Blitz; together they went to RADA; their partnership was only sundered by a more serious one when Billy

landed the part of Asbestos the Dancing Donkey's back legs in *Mother Goose*.

The high-lights of the programme all concerned the reuniting of legs. First we went back to Billy's old tap-dancing teacher in Birmingham to watch him hoof it once more with a brand-new row of Lollies. Then Asbestos was reassembled with his original components and found to be in perfect working order. Unlike most stage donkeys, this one was wired for sound: the interior commentary as the lower limbs cavorted and occasionally collapsed shed

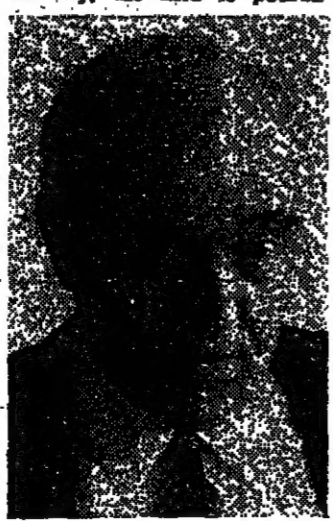
lurid light on a generally forgotten nether world.

We also met Billy in his guise as a Black Country Hamlet ("Why not? Shakespeare must have spoken like that"), and Billy acting an actor doing an audition. "This is an impression of Joseph Cotten chasing Orson Welles through the sewers in *The Third Man*". Terrible, said a watching Louis Benjamin, Chief Executive of Stoll Moss Empires (for it was he). But you wrote the gag, said Billy. And of course he had.

Michael Church

WEEKEND CHOICE

Clive of India (tonight, Channel 4, 7.30). Kenneth Griffith's remorselessly personal view of the imperialist (a word Mr Griffith can hardly utter without a twist of the embedded knife), is everything considered, a surprisingly favourable summary. In fact, once that nasty bit of double-dealing involving Clive and the Bengali trader Omichund is got out of the way, the acid is poured



Griffith's passion almost exclusively on the East India Company, the undoubted villains of the piece. There is, as in all Mr Griffith's films, a mighty cast of one - Mr Griffith himself. So it comes as no surprise that we are 20 minutes or so into the film before Clive is seen, in effigy.

History lessons do not come more dynamically than from this passionate and idiosyncratic Welshman.

Clive of India, vigorously directed by Michel Pearce with many a telling visual image, is more self-indulgent than Mr Griffith's previous film about Thomas Paine, but there is the same stimulating feeling of total immersion in the subject matter.

Henry Moore, just turned 85, is still hard at it, is still looking good - as you can see in *The Levin Interviews* (tomorrow, BBC 2, 8.15 pm) - and sounding lively. At the more artistic level, it says much for the sculptor and for Bernard Levin that, though they discuss in some detail the most tactile of the visual arts, they manage to sustain their fascinating half-hour with words alone. No inserted pictures, and only the brief handling of the skull of a young sheep.

Mr Moore has now reached the age and position of eminence where, without fear of provoking a national stoppage, he can say that Michelangelo worked harder than any British miner ever toiled.

Radio highlight: *Fat Man on a Roman Road* (tomorrow, Radio 4, 6.15 pm), in which Tom Vernon, the two-wheeled, twentieth-century George Borrow, begins cycling from Exeter to Edinburgh, is flecked with colourful Vernonisms such as the nightjar's sounding like "the ghost of a sewing machine", and the river mud that "sings to itself". A treat for the mind and ear, and a big boost for the "Get on your bike", lobby.

Peter Davalle

Theatre

City Whispers Man in the Moon

Down the other end of the King's Road from the Royal Court, where it forms one of the most successful parts of the Young People's Theatre Scheme, the Activists Youth Theatre is playing this amusing little collage of city scenes seen through young eyes. Scripted by the company itself from improvisation and interviews, it is brief and unpretentious, but also pointedly written, authentic and most enjoyable.

Job-hopping, scrounging, getting stopped by the police, getting robbed, getting an invitation to a Walthamstow party from boys you met in the 25 bus queue: ordinary experience comes up fresh in dramatic terms and, if the kids get used to looking at day-to-day life with a playwright's eye, who knows what may get written?

Red-pontail Linda (Abigail Thaw) and blonde Carol (Tricia Wilson) give a spirited exhibition of female indepen-

dence, pinching the bottoms of men they fancy and feigning illness in Earl's Court Road to beg cab fares which are saved to go towards the long-planned first parachute jump.

Down (Kirsta Soer), as the sort of dizzy person impossible things happen to, stops the show with a hilarious account of a train journey when two blind men insisted on seeing her a vast consignment of corn on the cob.

Gentle black Derek (Eddie Nestor) is relieved of his jewelry in the smoothest, non-violent mugging ever, but finds love instead and is ready at Victoria with a mugshot of Barcardi to greet the girls after their parachuting debut - yes, they do make it in the end, with Linda jubilantly crying "I fell out of the bloody sky today. And I'm still here!" And survival is just what it has been about all along. Gill Beadle directs, with a discipline that does not lose an ounce of the cast's creativity and zest.

Anthony Masters

Radio

Capital chance

Sometimes, as I stare in bewilderment at the cheese counter in my local supermarket, it occurs to me that the impression of immense and significant variety is quite illusory. The stuff is all cheese: the differences are marginal. I feel a bit like that when peering at the competing submissions for the next London and General Entertainment Radio Franchise put up by the sitting tenant, Capital, and its only rival, Metropolitan Radio Ltd. Whatever we end up with will not sound shatteringly different from what we are hearing now. People just say it will.

But wait! Did I say "only rival"? There is in fact a third, Richard Hilton's Radio A2Z, but as his solitary proposal is the issue of 75,000 £30 shares at the rate of not more than one share an applicant (each of whom would presumably have an equal say in the station's policies and programming which would be decided at meetings in Wembley Stadium) you will see that Mr Hilton is to the handing-out of shares as Screaming Lord Sutch is to parliamentary elections. The elections - in this case the IBA - may feel obliged to look at him, but not for very long.

Both the major submissions make the assumption that local radio, in the sense in which it exists in the country, is a meaningful notion for a conglomeration as big and as fragmented as London. Capital sees itself as "a forum for London" with its listeners "sharing news and expressing their views via phone-ins". Metropolitan writes of a "rounded service reflecting the make-up, the interests and the aspirations of the total potential audience". Neither Capital nor LBC has actually been able to provide this in the last 10 years - in fact, one thing that always strikes me about LBC's early morning sequence AM is that it actually suggests less sense of community than Radio 4's national Today. There is really no reason to believe that anyone is going to be able to do better, at least under the present arrangement.

If I had to sum up the rather similar impression given by each contender's programme intentions, I'd say that Capital would continue to sound more like Radio 1 with glances in the direction of Radios 2 and 4, while Metropolitan, if we ever hear it, will sound more like Radio 2 with glances in the direction of Radios 1 and 44.

The shift in emphasis proposed by Metropolitan is to correct what it sees as imbalances in Capital's output by which it has attracted the young, mainly male listener, but has lost the over-35s and the girls. In so far as I can make any comment on this matter, it is to say the Metropolitan's assessment is confirmed by the behaviour of its aging children who, with their friends, were once avid Capitalists, but now at 27 and 26 respectively regard the station's music and chat output as intolerable ("boring, repetitive, condescending") for more than an hour a day. My guess is, that Metropolitan, at least in its first excess of enthusiasm, would deliver something a bit more varied, a bit more like mixed programming than Capital, although its assertion that it will be "offering, perhaps for the first time, a genuinely attractive alternative to all, or any of the various BBC services" is going to take some selling. Particularly in the light of its restrained commitment to radio drama and documentary.

Capital, not surprisingly, does not dwell on its audience problems, but concentrates on achievements which, when you see them added up, are not inconsiderable - notably in the fields of social action and sponsorship. These may have little to do with broadcasting skills as such, but they look good on an application - and perhaps that is right. Anyway, Capital in this and other respects does have the immense advantage of actually having saleable wares to show, whereas Metropolitan's are all in the intention. It may be here and there a better intention, but will it be enough to sway the IBA, especially when it considers what is probably the most important consideration of the lot money?

As if in recognition of this, Metropolitan declares, with the air of a man showing a formidable but not necessarily unbreakable hand, that it could run the franchise at a profit (much of which would go to the IBA) way in excess of Capital's £6.2m against £2.5m in the first year. But Capital is already by far the most profitable of the IBA flock. Would you, if you were the IBA, knowingly garrote a golden goose on the unproven assertion of her rival that she could lay an egg of more than twice the size?

David Wade

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23 **Travel:** How to have a journey of a lifetime in Australia; **Eating Out:** your chance to win a Ford Sierra XR4i car

4 **Values:** The best of what to buy in Hampstead and Highgate; herbaceous borders in The Garden and Drink on mineral water

THE TIMES Saturday

5 **Review:** Video cassettes - a touch of comedy and how to amuse the children; **Preview of Theatre and Galleries;** Collecting

7,8 **Critics' choice of Films, Dance and Music;** Bridge; Chess; guide to the Edinburgh Festival and The Week Ahead

20-26 AUGUST 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Commoners who are Lords-in-waiting

From bankers to blacksmiths, carpenters to commuters, village cricket is the great leveller.

John Parker visits Troon for the semi-final of a national contest with the prize a ticket to Lord's

Troon, sixteen hundred souls housed in rows of little granite cottages built a century and more ago for the tin miners of Cornwall. Now there is 19 per cent unemployment typified by the derelict pitheads dotting the treeless landscape; but they have been inactive since the depression of the 1920s and kept so by the politicians and the microchip revolution. A church, a pub. And a cricket club.

Langleybury. A hamlet set in the lush Hertfordshire countryside just 23 miles from Charing Cross. Commoners. Two hundred people live here, collected around a crossroads, a church, a pub. And a cricket club.

I don't suppose either village would have known where to find the other on an Ordnance Survey map until a couple of weeks ago. But last Sunday Langleybury gathered its cricket bags and supporters and decamped by air, coach, train and car some 340 miles to Cornwall for the semi-final round of the Whitbread National Village Cricket championships. Far away the Yorkshire village of Sessay was preparing in like manner to do battle with the invaders from Quarndon in Derbyshire.

The prize the cricketers' dream, a place in the final at Lord's on Sunday, August 28. Troon have made the trek there three times since the competition began 11 years ago, and have come away winners each time. Langleybury have been close - losing semi-finalists three times already and now giving it a fourth go.

The two teams have never met, but Troon, for all their experience, are worried. They don't think the odds are easy run through the seven matches of the competition so far, but they don't think they are quite the force they used to be.

Never mind, it's only a game, isn't it? As Gerald Penberthy, the Troon chairman, says to Dick White, the club treasurer. But his dark eyes tell you he



doesn't mean it, and that to Troon - and to thousands of other villages across the country - the game is a religion. On the way up to the trim field from the impressive clubhouse he tells the story how the club was founded in 1875, its early successes drawing enthusiasm from the miners, how all the team, except one, came back from the 1914-18 trenches; how the club became socially and psychologically vital to the village through the slump of the 1920s and the 1930s, rescuing people from the misery of everyday life on the dole, and how it is performing the same service nowadays.

"How much would you say this clubhouse is worth?" he asks, pointing to the long, low building with its two bars, lounge and snooker room; comfortably, almost luxuriously, furnished. "Thirty, forty thousand?" his eyes flash again. "It cost us over £5,000. We did all the work ourselves. A local farmer gave us the land on condition we built within five years and included a proper snooker room. The old village room was falling to bits. We raised the cash and did it all well within the time. Then we used the profits from the bar to build the new pavilion; and the last thing we did was to put up the new scoreboard."

The scoreboard is indeed imposing, one which many a county ground would be proud of, and it is an object of interest to the Langleybury supporters already ringing the playing area with their cars and picnicking on the soft, brown grass. "Very professional," says a lady disapprovingly. "Professional" is the taboo word, and the Langleybury advance guard has already found out that two of Troon's leading players are



Scenes from the semi: Spectators, tea-makers and gladiators at the National Village Cricket championship semi-finals at Troon, Cornwall, and Sessay, Yorkshire

Weeding out the village greens

The National Village Cricket championship had been organized by *The Cricketer* magazine since 1972. The first sponsor was Haig Whisky, who promised a three-year run and stayed for six. Then Haig moved up-market to the club championship and Whitbread took over the sponsorship with equivalent success. It has run it ever since.

This year 570 village clubs paid the £10.50 entrance fee and the long trek to Lord's began in April. The championship is organized by Findlay Rae, a retired civil servant whose love of cricket is exceeded only by his patience and ingenuity in bending his own rules to meet unexpected situations.

This year's wet May and June caused hundreds of matches to be delayed or settled by various ingenious means. Officially the way to solve an abandoned game is for each man in the team to

bow one ball at three stumps, the most hits winning the game. But Findlay Rae turns a blind eye to the teams who settle matters over darts or even skittles, in the pub.

His favourite story is of the letter he received from a club secretary, responding to a complaint that one of his team was not eligible for the competition as he had not turned out the requisite number of times for the club.

"I can inform you," ran the reply, "that the player concerned has turned out for this club since the age of 16. From 11 to 16 he was the club's official scorer, and from six to 11 he put the numbers up on the scoreboard. Furthermore, writing as his parent and not as club secretary, I can assure you he was conceived in the pavilion."

This year's competition has produced its own crop of tales, among them that of the policeman first bowler in a

Gloucestershire side who, waiting to catch a simple return hit, was knocked over by the opposing batsman. Naturally he appealed, and the batsman was given out.

"I suppose it's the first time a man's been given out for obstructing the police," he said reflectively. "Come to think of it, we could have had him for wilful damage after he went back and kicked a hole in the dressing room door."

This year's final is between Troon from Cornwall and Quarndon from Derbyshire, at Lord's tomorrow week. The match will begin at 2pm and will consist, like all the championship matches, of 40 overs a side. No bowler may exceed nine overs, and in the event of a tie the number of wickets lost is taken into account or, failing that, the scoring rate. Entrance to Lord's is free, and on past form between 7,000 and 10,000 spectators will turn up.

from Troon. Could this be the turning point?

But Dobner makes amends by stumping Kitchen. Up goes umpire Ford's finger, and that is 85 for four. In comes Johnny Warren, at 17 the baby of the team. Has he the temperament to withstand the tension? Second ball he is tapped on the pads. Huge appeal from 11 Langleybury players, backed by several hundred supporting throats. Langleybury are good at appealing. Umpire Ford shakes his head. Troon breathe again.

But Pedlar strokes the next two balls into the covers and with the agile Warren makes second runs off each shot on poor throw-ins. Next delivery he moves down the pitch and drives the ball out of the ground over long-on's head. The horses whinny, the crowd roars. It is the first time Troon have had anything to cheer. They let themselves go. In the dressing room Terry Carter gives a long sigh, but his hands haven't unclenched yet. Two more two to put up the 100, and 12 off the over altogether.

After 35 overs the score is 123, with Pedlar on 49. His 50 comes with a push to third man, and now the charge is on. Thirteen runs come off the over altogether.



thirty-seventh over as the Langleybury fielding begins to come apart under the pressure of the speedy running of the Troon pair, and Warren, beginning to enjoy himself, weighs in with another agricultural four. Twelve off the thirty-eighth and another 12 off the thirty-ninth. Seven runs off the last over bring the total to 171 and Pedlar, run out off the last ball, comes in beaming to thunderous applause with 65 runs to his credit. "Boy!" Warren is left with 32 not out and bruises from all the backslapping. Their stand is worth 86 runs in 11 overs.

Ten, spontaneously spread in the pavilion, could well be called Troon's secret weapon, particularly if you are fielding second. But Gordon Riddick - tall, moustachioed and confident - drives Howard James's first ball sweetly through the covers for four.

"That's class." The murmur goes round the ground as the clapping dies down. Five off the first over is well on target. Riddick meets everything with the full face of the bat and protects his more hesitant partner Keith Wood. Troon know they have got to work for a win. Paul Cook, lean and lanky but with a labourer's strength and a nice high action, bowls two maiden overs and the scoring rate slows. In the seventh over with 15 on the board, Riddick plays the ball to guilley, sets off for a run, stops his partner in full flight and turns back, leaving Wood stranded. A classic case of "Yes. No. Sorry," the sort of thing Denis Compton used to indulge in. Riddick, concentration shaken by his mistake, moves across his wicket to the very next ball and is bowled round his legs by Peter Johns. Two wickets in two balls. Another turning point? Now Simon

Palmer and Mike Hardy have the job of fighting back.

"Mike's a probation officer. Perhaps he can sort this one out," says Riddick with an attempt at humour. But the mood in the Langleybury dressing room is as black as it had been in Troon's. The gloom deepens as, at 23, Palmer swings mightily at Johns, and Johnny Warren, with all the time in the world catches the skier effortlessly. So much for young nerves.

Now it is a battle of attrition. The score creeps up as slowly as had Troon's. Terry Carter begins to switch his bowlers around, and Steve Pedlar gets a ball to lift and leave the edge of Walford's bat for a comfortable wicketkeeper's catch. Forty-four for four off 19 overs. Steve Kitchen is brought on from the village end with his slow off-spinners to tempt the batsmen into rashness. Forty-four for four off 20 overs. Drinks, and animated discussion all round the ground. It is anybody's match.

Terry Carter makes an athletic swooping stop and comes racing off the field. "Split my pants", he grins, but he is a quick-change artist as well and he is back at the end of the over. Hardy, battling grimly, is on 21 and Martin Brown, fluently left-handed, has caught him up with three Gower-like fours. Langleybury are beginning to accelerate menacingly when Brian Carter whips a ball back from the boundary and with a one-handed, one-movement scoop James has the balls off to run out Hardy. Eighty-three for five becomes 83 for six off the next ball as Brown tries to drive Kitchen over his head but only manages a slice into the safe hands of Terry Carter.

Now there is real tension round the field. A little girl

continued on page 3

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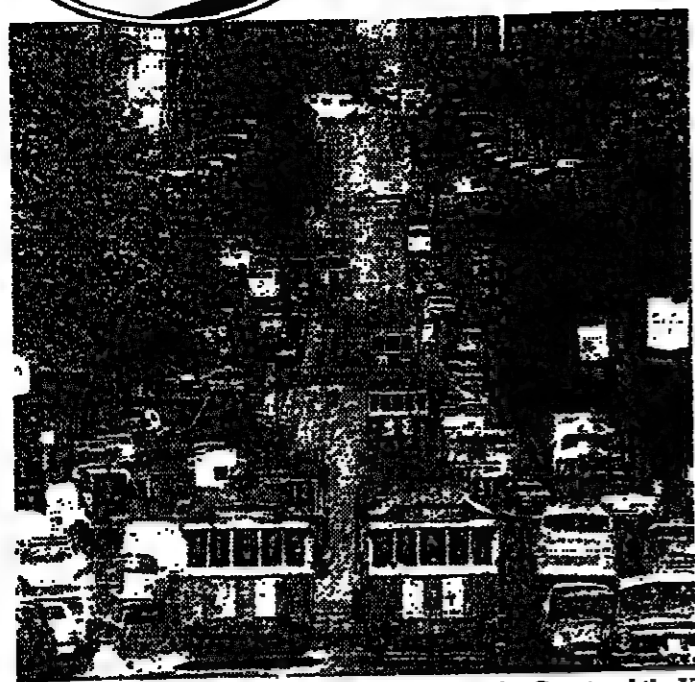
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Teeming trams: Melbourne's Collins Street and the Victorian Arts Centre, due for completion in 1984

An ocean of space where the earth curves as at sea



Driving in Australia is a cliché except in central Sydney, which retains a section based, apparently, on goat tracks. Extricating my splendid white Falcon from the gridlocked centre of Melbourne was child's play. I had worked it all out the night before. First right on to Elizabeth Street. Watch out for trams. Fourth left into Victoria Street. Third right into Peel Street. Bear left onto the Flemington Road, follow the signs to Ballarat. Hereabouts the main highways divided and I took the wrong one, sweeping me on to Bendigo.

So I did what my wife always reproaches me for not doing. I stopped and consulted the map. If I turned off the double-track at Diggers Rest, a country road would take me through a little town called Melton and reunite me with the Ballarat road. All this came to pass; and it was a grand day for it.

Scattered, fleecy clouds moved across the sky. The far distance was blue. The road lay across a vast high plain of open ground broken by forest ("Kangaroo for 32km" warned a road sign) and here and there a village. I caught a glimpse of a Victorian Gothic church in dark grey and black stone, a garage, a takeaway and general store, lines of bungalows.

My route took me through 1,000 miles of the farming country of Victoria and New South Wales - west to Hamilton, north to Horsham and north-east to Swan Hill, then eastward to Sydney, following, in reverse, the route of the explorers and settlers who had

THE OPEN ROAD

opened the land. I was in no hurry. I took five days over the drive. I have enjoyed lots of things as much as, but never anything more than these days of moving on through this ocean of land, which is so vast, that the curvature of the earth is as evident as it is at sea.

Out of the towns, the houses are represented by names on a map. The map prints the names of some of these farms as though they were townships, which must be why I drove through Tittybong and Townsville without noticing them.

Sometimes I stopped to relish the stillness and space, and the rather pleasant feeling (if it doesn't last longer than you want) of being alone in it, without a soul in the world knowing where I was at that particular moment. A wind - not a strong one, but somehow a huge one - a wind hundreds of miles wide, blew across the land and rattled the leaves of the gum trees. People, anonymous in cars, passed infrequently. I heard the car coming long before I saw it; a faint whine swelling to a roar and a frightful yelling tumult as it hurtled past me. Good god, do we all sound like that?

History is in the place-names, some commemorating British founders, some derived from the native names, some from incidents: Donald; Koorong Swamp; Turn-Back-Jimmy Creek; Poisoned Waterhole Creek. At Ballarat's gold diggings and Swan Hill (once a big inland port), history has been preserved and reconstructed. I had a fascinating day in these places, but for me the continuity of history is more real in a town such as Forbes, where I pulled up on a baking, autumn Easter Saturday.

Forbes began as a farming settlement, but went mad for a few years when gold was discovered in 1861 in what is

now the King George V memorial park. The population rushed up to 40,000. Then mining the gold became too complicated and most of the population rushed away again, leaving behind some fine nineteenth-century colonial architecture in the style that these country towns are still quite rich in. The balconies run unbroken round the building, supported through ground and upper floors by slender iron columns that branch out at the top into delicate lacy ironwork.

The Vandenberg Hotel was such a place. Here were the odd 200 of Forbes' population of 8,200, pouring Foster's and Toobey's lager beer down their throats and shouting conversation over the uproar of a thundering juke-box. The men were dressed informally in singlets or T-shirts, "ambles" (shorts) or "riders" (trousers), thick boots or thong sandals. In my linen jacket and trousers, shirt, socks and shoes, I must have stood out, to use a vivid Australian simile, like a one-legged man at an arse-kicking competition.

I wished, as on earlier trips down under, that someone could invent and promote a better informal hot climate dress for men. The drab stubbies do not belong. They are the sort of thing holiday campers in the north of England used to wear in the thirties when the sun came out. A hard fact is that hairy legs and pale skins, once tanned, need bright

Of formal knee socks and much beer

colours to display them. Yet the formal hot weather dress of Australian men, consisting of shorts, white full-length socks, polished shoes, white shirt, tie and light jacket, is extremely attractive. I wore it myself sometimes, and could not repress a start of gratification when I saw myself reflected in a shop window. Before I left Forbes I took a walk through the park. There was more history here, as in all towns through all of Australia and New Zealand, in the names on the memorials of the young men who left them. Young men who went, no doubt, more as a high-spirited lark than as dedicated soldiers of the Empire, to fight in the Empire's wars and did not return.

In between the cities, Australians measure distances in hours, not miles. Traffic is sparse. "Narrandera 100km", said a sign outside Jerilderie, and exactly one hour later, the Falcon was rolling across the bridge over the wide Murrumbidgee river and along the wide, sunstruck main street of Narrandera, pop. 5,000.

It was Good Friday. Barney, the host of the Fig Tree Motel, took me to the bowling club, explaining that it was one of the two places in town where you could get a drink without having to eat a meal. At 5.30pm, the portrait of the Queen looked down on a thriving and exuberant scene. Perhaps because there were lots

of women present, the men's dress was noticeably more formal. Somebody told Barney something as we entered, at which he looked grave. "The wife's got some trouble at home, Peter. The refrigerator's flooding all over the kitchen." He considered the priorities. "Reckon we'll have to have a drink and then go."

Barney said that the new drink-drive laws, which introduced random breath tests and lowered the permitted limit to 50 milligrams per thousand (in Britain the limit is 80) had reduced these clubs to shadows of their former selves. They had evidently not affected the dinner trade in his restaurant. He had taken on a spare waiter, in whose conversation there was the essence of the Australia I do not know.

"Do you want something to drink?" he asked, when he had taken my order. "Is there a wine you recommend?" "I'm a beer drinker myself. I wouldn't have a clue." This last phrase, I used cheerfully by Australians and New Zealanders. They applied it to such of my questions as "What time does the bottle store open?" "Which one is the Southern Cross?" "Am I right for Marrangaroo?"

Next morning was Easter Sunday, the last day of my drive. Leaving Orange, the road began to climb between ranges of green hills, curved as gently as the Sussex Downs but four times bigger. Then the ridge ended. The road began to spiral downhill in wide, shallow curves, presenting at each turn a fresh aspect of thousands of square miles of tamed and fertile plain. The size of it was enough to halt my breath.

Back in London when I was planning this journey, I had looked forward to this section through the mountains as the romantic as well as geographical peak; but one cannot always be lucky. It began to rain just outside Lithgow, where the Great Western Highway follows the discoverers' track, and a smaller road promised less Easter traffic and more spectacular views.

I stopped at a cafe to ask a "bike" (Australian for motorcyclist), his leather outfit stiff with studs and CND badges, which route he recommended. He replied: "It doesn't matter, mate. They'll both be closed in by fog."

So I took the upper road through Richmond and Windsor, and it was as he said. All I saw of the Blue Mountains was dripping trees along the road, side and beyond that, a wall of grey. This was I was told, typical of the region in autumn. I joined the stream of cars, full of disappointed families, driving back to Sydney in the rain, through the suburbs that sound so English - Hornsby, Ealing, Chatswood. In the morning, Sydney was itself again. I drove into the city and across the Harbour Bridge (with one of those glorious blue days that make Sydney the most beautiful city in the world).

Peter Black



Bay of splendour: Sydney Harbour Bridge crowns a most beautiful city

Land of plenty with room at the top



In the Cricketers' Bar of the Windmill Hotel, Melbourne, I identified a source of the affection for Australia that I have felt for as many years as I can remember. It was the magic cast by the Australian Test sides of my boyhood, whose faces looked out of the rows of black and white group photographs on the walls. MacLaren, Armstrong, Macartney, Oldfield, Kippax, Grimmett, the boy-genius Bradman... I never saw any of them play, so my imagination was at liberty to construct heroes and a country that existed in the hero-worshipping boy's world.

Nor has the reality of three visits over 20 years chipped much off my affection for it. I love it for its triumph over its bad start. It gives me a lift to see what the country has achieved in the past 150 years; and if I had looked for the dramatic impressions of the latest and earliest I could not have picked better places than the Melbourne Regent and the Glenisla sheep station 200 miles west.

The Regent was formerly the Wentworth, which was pulled down and the new hotel built at a cost of \$A\$500m (about £180m), which makes it the most expensive building ever erected in Australia, exceeded in size only by the Sydney Opera House (and Ayers Rock). From the outside it resembled a giant hair-roller, and my room was on the forty-eighth floor of 50. I never expected to be on the forty-eighth floor of anything in Australia.

The Regent signifies Australia's place in the multi-national world of "big" business conglomerates, credit cards, and in-house television. I was given a vivid little snapshot of this world on the way to breakfast. A notice outside a room said: "No Entry: Function in progress." And young men wearing serious suits and expressions and carrying little black briefcases, filled in and took seats. It was only ten to seven, but life was already earnest. I thought complacently about my investments in Australia.

It could be said that the Regent began at Glenisla, the homestead of Eric and Evie Barber, where I arrived a couple of days later, and that Glenisla began at Melbourne, for it was from there in the mid-1850s

SHEEP AND SKYSCRAPERS

that the settlers set out, moving with their bullock wagons, families, oxen, sheep, cattle, and provisions, like Old Testament tribes. They managed three miles a day with luck. They faced danger at almost every turn from the doomed aborigines, and accepted what seems to us extraordinary hardships (fancy not having sunglasses!) with a hardihood we can only marvel at. Among them was Evie Barber's great-grand-uncle Carter, whose son Sam built Glenisla in 1873.

It is by way of being a historic house, preserved and restored by the Barbers and the National Trust as an exceptional example of the kind of house a grazier would build once he felt securely settled. The architecture is as Australian as the trees. A wide verandah runs right round the roof. They say that even in summer, when the temperature outside is over a hundred, it remains a cool and comfortable 74 degrees in these spacious, high-ceilinged rooms.

Merinos, mutton and chores by the acre

Climate dictates the differences between a sheep station in Australia and New Zealand. With their annual 20in rainfall my New Zealand friends the Symes ran 1,250 sheep on 3,000 acres. The Barbers' 12,000 had just supported their 4,000 sheep during the drought that struck Victoria last summer, though they had had to bring in fodder by truck. They celebrated the first rain for 11 months, a fine drizzling of 1 1/2 in that had already given the earth the beginnings of fresh growth. So while the Symes' place was as green and neat as a corner of the Isle of Wight, the Barbers' colours were pale greens and the browns of the original forest.

I met my fellow-guests at dinner (roast sheep, vegetables, a splendid fruit pudding) before which Eric led us in a grace. "It is the custom of the house." The Rita turned out to be an Australian male kitchen designer named Rita; the others were a cavernous-voiced American investment counsellor and his wife, and a rather sad dark girl

who, it was supposed, nursed an unhappy love affair.

After dinner we went into the sitting room where Eric showed us a collection of clay pipes found in the bottom of an old sheepwash, and played a couple of cylinders on a 1903 Edison gramophone. "Tipperary" and "Beautiful Sunday".

But this burst of inaction did not suit Eric. He took me out in his truck and tore along the road with a powerful torch plugged into the cigarette lighter to show me the night creatures, the kangaroos and foxes.

In the morning he drove me along a forest track to the fire look-out point on Mount Bepcha, from which you can see clearly how little of the forest has been cleared compared to the expanse that remains, though the cleared paddocks, as they call fields, are the size of golf courses. Today bulldozers pulling trees like teeth clear a patch in a few days. The Barbers' forebears took years, sawing each tree to stump level and lighting a fire round the stump.

The wildlife remains abundant. We put up several groups of kangaroo and emu. Eric chased them over the plain, roaring with laughter as though the sight was as fresh to him as to me. The kangaroos bounded surrealistically, like animals from a dream. The emus raced along with necks stretched and vertical wings pressed to their sides, looking comically like old ladies running for the bus with a shopping bag under each elbow.

Still on Glenisla property, we drove into a paddock at the foot of the Gramplains and left the truck to walk a while. At this spot the mountain face climbed sharply in high, jagged-topped cliffs. Over them an eagle ("seven feet, I reckon, his wings span," Barber said) circled and rose in the updraft. Under the enormous bright sky the peace was profound. Except for the clearances the scene cannot have changed in thousands of years. No wonder it is a holy region for surviving local aborigines. They sometimes make trips from their urbanized lives to camp at the foot of these cliffs, perhaps remembering in their dreams the long centuries before the Europeans came, as depicted in the wall paintings in the nearby Cave of Ghosts, the Cave of Fishes and the Cave of Hands.

The Europeans too have their ghosts. In another part of the

Dresses: Australia's aborigines

forest, on the other side of a dried-out swamp, Eric showed me a lost road. The trees stood more thickly here, and in the scrub I could see plainly the ruins of wheelmarks, slightly sunken in the track.

Here was the road that the Cobb-coaches used to pound along on the journey between Melbourne and Adelaide. It was a strangely stirring sight. It needed very little work to conjure up the sounds of furious action, the cursing and whip-cracking, the sweating horses, the squeak and cackle of harness.

Sitting on the verandah after breakfast, enjoying the little flocks of cockatoos and crimson rosellas, the grey and pink galah parrots and such familiar birds as magpies and sparrows, I felt I wouldn't have objected to staying on for a year or so - as a guest, that is. I couldn't manage the chores, for despite the benefits that electricity pours into the countryside the life is strenuous.

Eric was taking it easy - he had just finished chopping logs and was hoeing the vegetable garden - but I don't recollect that I ever saw him or Evie doing just anything. And it would not be enough to be willing, you had to be able - to change a tyre, replace a washer, clean a sparkling, administer first aid, and a hundred things besides. The aromatic wood that burned at night in the sitting room, and fed the modern woodburning stove that Eric kept going because she liked the smell, came from the gum trees; but it had to be picked up, carted home, left to dry for a year, and chopped up.

Although they could not be seen from Glenisla, two home-steads of equal size lay within a couple of miles, the properties broadening out from the buildings, like segments of cake. "If we had a crisis there'd be 20 to 30 people here in five minutes," said Eric. "Lonely? I'm only lonely in cities, where no one wants to talk to strangers."

The man Hamilton-Horsham road runs past the front entrance, bringing certain anxiety at times, I thought. As if on cue a big shabby Holden turned into the yard and a very dirty woman, followed by a large and grubby man, got out. Eric hurried to meet them. "I thought they'd be up," he said when he returned. "Ran out of petrol. I noticed them stop last night. Slept in the car by the road."

"Did it occur to you that they might be Bonnie and Clyde?" "Lord, no. Nothing like that ever happens here. Where would they get to? There are so few people round here the police would have them in the next town."

Perhaps the only snags are that one would have to eat too much sheep, and would inevitably grow hardened in one's dealings with them. Eric was clearly as good a fellow as ever walked, but it must be a long time since he had been able to consider sheep as "sentient fellow creatures". He raised his eyebrows for wool and fattened the older ones for export. I wondered if it had ever bothered him that a good slice of his life was bought by these meek creatures who were shipped live to the Middle East for slaughter. It was one of those questions I wish I could have brought myself to ask.

P.B.



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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

EATING OUT

High and dry on a jumbo

For those attracted by the specialist shops in Values (overleaf) or just visiting, we investigate pub lunches in Hampstead and Highgate.

It would be stretching it to describe a journey round the pubs of Hampstead and Highgate as "crawling" - given the picturesque quality of the neighbourhoods, it would be more of an elegant sway. Yet as far as catering is concerned, it seems that the old restaurant applies. The more attractive the setting, the less effort need be taken.

Certainly the pub lunches offered on my tour were largely dominated by jumbo sausages, cheese salads and, as the blackboards describe them, "assorted quiches". The visitor, drawn to these areas by their history and village charm may welcome the progress of the Campaign for Real Ale, but will probably leave endorsing a Campaign for Real Food.

An honourable exception to this criticism is The King of Bohemia, a well-kept, wood-paneled house at the foot of Hampstead High Street. Cold lunches here are augmented by a range of excellent home-made pies served with vegetables (chicken and ham £1.60, steak and kidney £1.65), with spicy rissoles or fish and chips (£1.50) as alternatives. This is also one of the few pubs to offer puddings (apple pie and ice-cream 50p) and coffee.

The house, beer is Weber's, and there is a pretty, ivy-clad patio at the rear for open-air eating.

At the top of the High Street, in Flack Walk, is one of Hampstead's most famous pubs, The Flack. Guide books suggest that it is full of bearded intellectuals and poets, but the lunchtime

trade is mostly office workers, and any poets are probably the sort who sell their work in 10p booklets. The interior is striking - huge windows, high ceilings and painted pre-Raphaelite panels - but the food is unadventurous, transport café stuff (sausages, egg and chips 80p, cheese and onion pie 78p, ham, egg and chips £1.15), although the chips are terrific and the Rombouls coffee is a bonus. Watch out for the Pinteresque "pot-man" in BR jacket and badge.

Up above Heath Street, Hampstead is at its dinkiest, and it is no surprise to find the tastefully preserved Holly Bush, with its deep-toned interior of wooden banquettes

and panelling, is the local hostelry. Equally predictable is the appropriately prickly service and the dullish food - ploughman/fisherman/gamekeeper's lunches (£1.20), bland pizzas and burgers and one rapidly vanishing daily special such as chilli con carne (£1.30) or sweet and sour chicken (£1.35). There is also the ubiquitous jumbo sausage.

Moving up over the Heath towards Highgate, it is impossible to miss Jack Straw's Castle, a sprawling modern edifice that looks more like a coastguard's base than a pub. An upstairs carryover offers fixed-price, meat-based meals, while "Toby's Pantry" (a refrigerated display) on the ground floor offers the usual range of salads and a couple of hot daily dishes.

Highgate itself has at least one winning entry with its own Flack, a large but attractive coaching inn with a wide, table-lined forecourt and a

tasteful, atmospheric maze of bars. There is also some imagination and effort in the kitchens, with samosas and home-made pizzas brightening the cold display. Hot dishes on

my visit included a smashing braised-liver casserole with fresh vegetables (£2.50) and a strapping chunk of shepherd's pie (£1.75). The friendly and efficient staff even helped a tourist with his map-reading.

Not so impressive is The Prince of Wales, where a pleasant aspect on Pond Square is let down by lunches limited to not much more than sandwiches (£1.50), ploughman's (£1) and instant pizzas (90p) and burgers (80p). The Guinness, though, is immaculate, and there is an appealing strand of eccentricity among the clientele, testified to by the occasional classical pianist or ball-room dancing couple.

The adjacent Ve Olde Gate House has no such aberrations. Homely, neatly furnished and clean, it offers simple grills (mixed £2.75, lamb cutlet, £1.75) and quick-fried snacks (scampi and chips £2.25) with a touch of the neo-European (lasagne 90p, moussaka £1.50) all unobjectionable but featureless.

Of course our ridiculous licensing laws do not encourage the progress of catering in pubs, but one would have thought that the residents of Hampstead and Highgate, who always seem to be pretending that they live in France, would bring more pressure on their locals to enhance the notion.

Stan Hey

The King of Bohemia, Hampstead High Street, London NW3
The Flack, 14 Flack Walk, London NW3
The Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount, London NW3
Jack Straw's Castle, North End Way, London NW3
The Flack, 77 West Hill, London N6
Prince of Wales, 53 Highgate High Street, London N6
Ye Olde Gate House, North Road, London N6



Ploughman's lunch: Familiar scenes now showing at the Holly Bush, Heath Street

Village ticket to Lord's

continued from page 1

holds up play for an agonizing minute as the bats behind the bowler's arm. At 92 for six, with 10 overs left, Langleybury are marginally ahead of the Troon striking rate, but they are beginning to run out of wickets. Paul Trussell, 17-year-old schoolboy, is in now, playing a similar role to that of Johnny Warren. Pedlar gives him a fast full-toss, and the big lad whacks it out of the ground for the biggest six of the day. Now he swings again, and Paul Dook, down at long leg, fails to judge the swirling ball.

Groans and cheers mingle as

Cook hurls the ball in and goes down on his knees, shaven head in hands. Fourteen runs off the thirty-first over, 10 more off the thirty-second. Carter switches his field around again, brings on the reliable Johns. Trussell thumps yet another four. Then he swings again, snicks, and James throws the ball high in jubilation. It is 122 for seven now and the sands are running out.

Shaun Palmer, moustache bristling, walks out to the chant "Come on the Bury" and smashes two fours. Now it is 133 for seven - 39 runs to win off six overs. Johns sends Palmer's middle stump flying, and the inevitable Terry Carter, now on the long-on boundary, catches Dobner's desperate heave. The last man is run out in yet

another tangle and Troon are on their way to Lord's again. And so to the bar. After the brief speeches, the presentations, the award of the new bat to man-of-the-match Scott Pedlar, the carpenter, the battle is fought all over again.

New friends part, and many Langleybury folk will be at Lord's for the final to cheer on Troon when they meet Quarnon. And Brian Carter leads the singing until closing time. He will be going to London twice this year - once to Lord's and later to the Albert Hall with his fine tenor voice for a choir festival.

But cricket's only a game. Isn't it?

John Parker is the author of *The Village Cricket Match* (Wednesday) and *Test Time at Tingleford* (Wednesday).

THE TIMES WIN-A-CAR COMPETITION

In the summer, readers of *The Times*, and millions of other Britons, take to the road to enjoy the glories of the English countryside. For those with a keen eye for detail who wish to make their future journeys more enjoyable, here's a chance to win a Ford Sierra XR4i

How to play

Our summer competition starts today and runs for the following two weeks.

● A small section of one of the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map series of a place in the United Kingdom mentioned in *The Times* in the past 10 days is reproduced here.

● All you have to do is identify the place which has been blacked out. Other names nearby have been masked in grey to make the contest more difficult. Fill in the blacked out name on the dotted line below the map.

How to enter

● Collect all three maps (today, August 27, September 3) and send them in to the address given below as soon as possible after the competition ends. The first correct entry opened will win the first prize.

The rules

The competition is open to anyone except employees of *The Times* Newspapers Limited and the Ordnance Survey, and their immediate families. The closing date for entries is Monday, September 12. Competitors should enclose a current address and telephone number if possible. The Editor's decision in any dispute resulting from the competition will be final. The result and the winning will be given in *The Times* on Sunday, September 17. Entries should be sent to *The Times* Win-A-Car Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.



The prizes

● First prize is a Ford Sierra XR4i with a 2.8 litre V6 engine, a maximum speed of 130 mph and a price of £9,170.

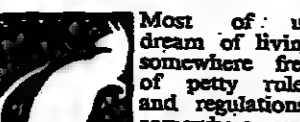
● Twenty runners-up will

each receive a copy of the new Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Great Britain (£7.95), the comprehensively indexed 1 inch to the mile atlas.



IN THE OUTBACK

Life on the opal trail



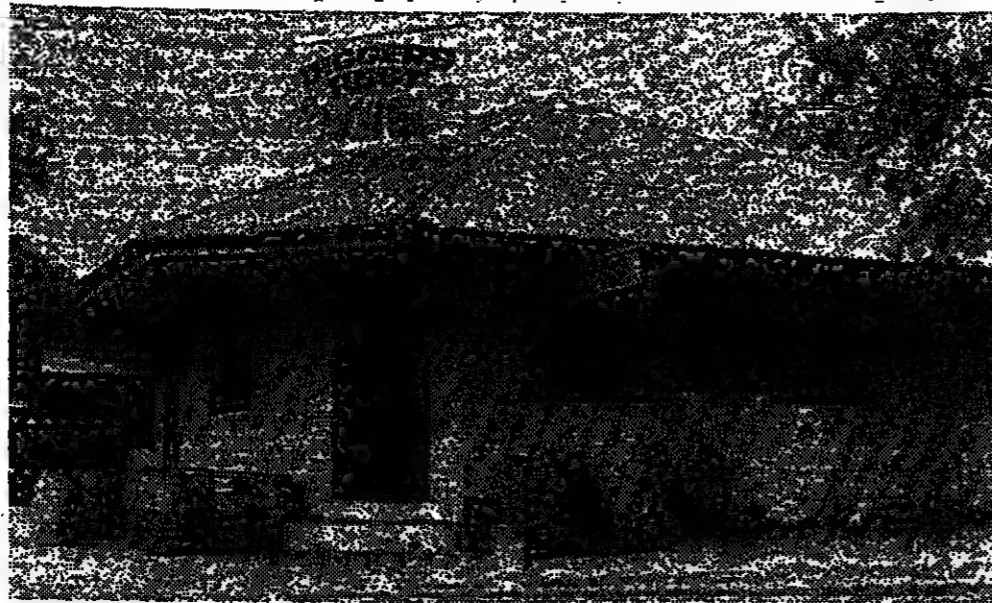
Most of us dream of living somewhere free of petty rules and regulations, somewhere you don't have to deal with bureaucrats if you want to build a house or start a business. A place where you can try to get rich quick and defy the odds by gambling on anything from premium bonds to football pools.

At Lightning Ridge in the Australian outback both these dreams can come true. About 400 miles from Sydney, Lightning Ridge is a community of drifters and dreamers who come in search of wealth, and to discover an escape route from many of the pressures of the twentieth century.

It is by no means an idyll, resembling a sun-parched, glaring moonscape more than a Garden of Eden. But it is the only place in the world where black opals have been discovered. The stones can be as valuable as gem-quality diamonds, but a great deal harder to find.

The technical difficulties in finding them and getting them out of the ground have meant that big international mining interests have never become involved. The field has remained open to independent prospectors who have been tramping Australia for the last 200 years.

Lightning Ridge is bad grazing land, where sheep only venture in times of extreme drought, so land owners are quite happy to encourage miners to explore beneath the earth. All they have to do is put down a \$450 (about £50) deposit (returnable when they leave the site safe and tidy), and pay a \$450 (about £50) annual registration fee for the mining rights to an area 50 metres square. Each person is allowed two claims, and most serious miners



Grim and beer it: Some strike lucky, others live on hope and kangaroo stew

work one claim and build a house on the other.

The township has grown to cater for miners and is largely populated by those few who have struck it rich and built themselves comfortable, if incongruous, suburban villas, and those who have given up the unequal struggle and settled for safer vocations, like running motels and shops, or making pottery from opal clay.

"Some men here have become millionaires with 10 minutes work", Dave Martin, an old prospector, explains. He has been working Lightning Ridge himself for 16 years, but now spends more time showing visitors around and recalling the area's history between beers. "Others never find anything and live all their lives on hope and kangaroo stew."

Artist Paul Bird lives in a substantial house on a claim, supplementing his income by painting local scenes. To make life more bearable for his wife and child, he has dug an underground room beneath the house, where the temperature remains comfortable while the air outside goes up over 120°F.

Life in the caravans and shacks around the holes is not comfortable. In town, water is

brought up from artesian wells. It is always hot and foul-smelling, but fit to drink and shower in. Out of town, prospectors survive with modest storage tanks and generators, building haphazard privies over cracks in the ground. When they are not underground or asleep, many of the men drink quantities of beer.

In the public bar there are rows of one-armed bandits cashing in on the local taste for gambling, while in the main hall, where "reasonable standards of dress" are required, most of the town turns out weekly for giant raffles in which nearly everyone wins something while sitting around trestle tables drinking and yarning.

On the surface the claims seem deserted and silent. There is no telling how many miners are beavering away beneath the surface, or how many are doing in apparently abandoned cars and caravans.

Most men work in partnerships, because if a miner has an accident underground it is possible his absence will not be noticed for weeks. A miner who strikes lucky also needs help guarding his hole against the "ratbags" or "ratties". They are

the men who do not respect the moral codes of frontier land, and nip down other men's holes in the night to steal their hard-won prizes.

Good finds are shrouded in secrecy, allowing rumours to grow into local myths which no one can verify. Attempts have been made to set up an unbiased body of valuers to act between miners and the buyers, but the miners are wary of anything which might attract the attentions of bureaucrats and taxmen. Many prefer to do their selling from pocket to pocket in the bars. The dealers come out from the city and spend time in the motels, listening to the rumours and drinking in the bars. They often get bargains by offering cash to miners with hungry families.

At one time open-cast mining was allowed, but the damage to the environment was too great. Now contractors bore holes up to 200ft deep, and miners descend on rickety ladders to chip away with hand tools. Holiday seekers from the cities are the other sources of income for the town. They come out to camp or stay in the motels, and hope to recover the cost of their holiday with one lucky find. Some of them even

arrive in coaches, and stay in the new Lightning Ridge Motel, the closest to luxury the town offers.

Locals are pleased to show off their pioneer lifestyle, but at the same time frightened of losing it. Many of them first came to the area as visitors and "fell in love with it". If you didn't fall in love at the first sight you wouldn't be able to stand it for more than a couple of days. Local eccentricity manifests itself in a number of ways. Owen Jenkins runs an animal orphanage for baby kangaroos whose mothers are killed in road accidents.

Another local woman collects cacti and fights a continual battle with an over-zealous local government inspector, who is certain she is harboring species that will sweep the nation in epidemic proportions. Someone else has built a house entirely of bottles, and once a year there is a goat race down the main street, for which wild goats are caught, trained and ridden with gusto.

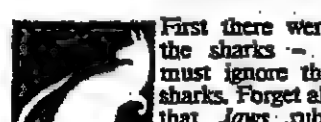
Local characters like Dave Martin have huge funds of stories, but in between the historic events stretch the long hot, dusty waking hours, when the only thing to do is sink a few more beers, or chip away a few more inches in the cool, clay burrows.

Andrew Crofts

To get to Lightning Ridge from Sydney it is advisable to take an organized tour, either by coach or plane and car, with either motel or campsite accommodation. The internal airline AAT organizes seven-day coach tours for \$450 per person, including food, drink, and accommodation. There are three days in Lightning Ridge. Air New South Wales will also arrange three-day weekends there, picking you up from Wollongong airport by car. A long weekend camping will cost \$450 per person. A straight return air ticket from Sydney costs around \$450, so it is worth taking a "Fly New South Wales" pass for the same price which gives unlimited flights within the state for 14 days. Arrangements can be made through Jetabout, 500 Chiswick High Road, London W4, (747 3747) and 140 Pacific Highway, North Sydney (010 61 236 3636).

ON THE REEF

New worlds down under



First there were the sharks - I must ignore the sharks. Forget all that *Jaws* rubbish and relax. Don't actually provoke them, mind you, just ignore them and they ignore you. That was the expert advice, but like most divers from cold water countries who first explore the Great Barrier Reef, I found it difficult to accept. Try, I was told, to appreciate them for what they are: streamlined predators of marvellous efficiency and instinct, a threat to fish but not to humans.

But, I nervously inquired, what about the case of the ship's cook eaten a few days earlier and the crewman mangled to death when a fishing boat overturned? That tragedy was the exception to the rule. It had probably happened because they had fallen into the sea with the catch, the sudden bonus from above that had sent the sharks into a feeding frenzy.

With that thought in mind, and only partly reassured by the experience of Ray Gomersall, our divemaster, who had only twice in 10 years been forced out of the water by a "big bite", I finally checked my air supply and, harnesses on, rolled backwards over the edge of the boat into the warm Pacific.

The Great Barrier Reef has not been plundered and destroyed by the crown of thorns starfish, a multi-tentacled coral-eater which attacks the reef in locust numbers and reduces it to dead, stripped rock. Areas have been attacked, but many of the divers I met thought the submarine "ecologists" had



Sight-seeing dip: The richest marine life anywhere

perhaps over-reacted to the threat.

There was no sign of sick coral near our group. We did not have to dive deep - 40ft was ample to appreciate a majestic and colourful world. A large head turtle lumbered past en route from nowhere to nowhere, a stingray, sting erect, flapped into the deep in panic as we approached.

The reef is probably the richest area for marine life in the world. The Caribbean numbers its species in the hundreds; Australia's amazing reef, the eighth wonder of the world, runs into thousands. When a diver has learnt to relax

and take in the fine details of his surroundings, it is the small things that are most fascinating: not the big biters, but the tiny fish and intricate coral growth.

I glanced upwards to the right and stared straight at the belly of a white-tipped reef shark. A mild panic of bubbles showered from my air demand. The shark was silver and lean with a sinister dark eye - 10ft long, I thought, until I remembered that underwater everything becomes magnified. It was really no more than 3 or 4ft.

Australia is a magnificent place for an adventurous vacation. With a population not much bigger than that of Greater London spread around a land as wide as the Atlantic, it is largely open-air, adventurous ground. The Great Barrier Reef sums up the scale of things, stretching from the Gulf of Papua to Fraser Island, some 1,200 miles long and covering 80,000 square miles. It was first crossed by Captain Cook in the eighteenth century but remains largely unexplored, submarine territory.

The most spectacular way to arrive is by air. A flock of small amphibious aircraft operate

from Shute Harbour on the coast near Proserpine. They carry reef watchers out to a lagoon 30 miles offshore.

Passengers are ferried from the aircraft on to the coral where it is thinly covered by the sea and are left to prod around after a briefing on what they should avoid touching - stone fish, for example, that are amazingly camouflaged and have a near fatal sting, and certain anemones which cause stinging hydroids.

"You know when you stand on one, your hair stands on end", the guide cheerfully explained to a group of Japanese bankers that had rolled up its collective trousers and was paddling uncertainly among the coral.

A short trip away by boat lay anchored the Reef Encounter, a diving support ship skippered by Mr Gomersall which acts as hotel and service station for the parties of scuba enthusiasts and snorkellers. From the vessel they explore Hook Reef which is surrounded by excellent dive sites including outer, the Canyons, an area of reef that has fractured into a maze of submarine cliffs, passageways and caves. There is also Shark Alley, a cut in the reef where the tide flows in and out in a submarine waterfall, and where tiger and black-tipped sharks commonly hunt.

Not everyone quite grasped what the reef was. One passenger with Air Whitsunday wanted to fly out to the reef with his bicycle. "What are you hoping to do?" the bewildered pilot demanded. "I'm going to land there and ride it up to Cairns", was the reply. Cairns is a town 300 miles to the north. He clearly imagined a smooth causeway running along the sea surface and holding back the full weight of the Pacific. In fact, it is a jigsaw of more than 3,000 individual reefs that form a ragged barrier protecting the Queensland coast.

"It is a magical place. When the spring tide ebbs, the coral lifts the lagoon above the level of the sea, which is eerie. There's a lot of peace and quiet here; sunrise and sunset are spectacularly colourful", Mr Gomersall reflected on the bridge of his lonely ship.

A similar kind of isolation can be found on Heron Island to the south, which is advertised as a drop in the ocean. The island, which measures one mile around its flawless beach shaded with tropical trees, juts

from the coral reef which extends in a 15-mile circle. Guests clatter the 50 miles or more from the coast by helicopter across the mosaic pattern of coral to land on the beach, a stride away from chalets that form the hotel. The Tropic of Capricorn passes directly through the bar, and a horizon struts tamely around the dining room, living on an unlikely menu of chicken and turkey. The thick foliage shelters a wealth of birdlife: silver gulls, doves, landrails, noddies, black-naped and common terns, who arrive on Heron Island after a 12,000-mile migration. The diving is spectacular. At a spot on the seabed known as the Bommie, we saw shoals of fish; coral trout, golden trevally, red emperor, graceful angel fish, hump-headed Maori wrasse, and a lugubrious greasy cod weighing some 35lb and looking monstrous. In crevices behind the massive heads of staghorn coral lurked a pair of moray eels known to divers who explore there regularly as Fang and Harry.

It is not absolutely necessary to travel so far offshore to savour the reef. Shute Harbour has its own spectacular reef a short distance offshore, and from there it is possible to charter sailing craft to explore the Whitsunday group of islands. Sailing requires particular care with so many coral heads lying just beneath the surface, and proven experience is required before taking a self-sail charter. Each yacht has VHF radio and charters are required to make a daily check call and to be settled at anchor before sundown.

Ronald Faux

All centres offering scuba diving insist that customers hold the British Sub Aqua Club third-class certificate or its equivalent. Reef Encounter and Heron Island centres arrange training courses leading to the award of the Australian C qualification. The Heron Island package costs \$450 (about £110) exclusive of accommodation. Reef Encounter offer as many dives in 24 hours as safety permits for \$450 plus \$60 a day accommodation. Heron Island diving centre, P.O. Box 72, Hamilton, Queensland 4077. Reef Encounter diving and details of air connections from Air Whitsunday, The Airfield, Shute Harbour, Proserpine, Queensland. Whitsunday Rent-A-Yacht, Shute Harbour, PMBS Proserpine, Queensland 4800.

power steering and air-conditioning. If you plan to drive long distances, the bigger the car the better. Campervans rent from around \$450 a day. Motel accommodation is from \$450 to \$550 per unit per day.

Try to stay at least two months; the longer you stay the cheaper the weekly expenses become. The most expensive rental flight, first-class, is £2,546. Cheapest flight fares are the Apex off-peak returns from £264. The 14-270 day excursion fare costs £782 and permits one stopover. The Qantas/TWA £1,180 "World Beater" fare is valid for one year and allows unlimited stopovers. It is worth looking at the travel arrangements in the back pages of *The Times* for prices and special offers. The P&O Down Under Club's offer, from £582 return, is typical. Alex McWhirter's Fare Deal column in the *Saturday* section on Sept 10 will be on fares to the antipodes.

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the market. To avoid having to shop around, they can use the knowledge of a specialist school-fee company, or investment adviser who should summarize for them the most competitive plans available to suit their requirements. If in doubt consult several advisers

18. This additional income for the child can be used to help with fees. A step-by-step guide is now available on setting it up correctly to ensure Inland Revenue approval.

Joe Collins

TRUST

CHARGES

Mention trusts and the usual reaction from any beneficiary is that the administration charges are too steep. Accountants Dearden Farrow have done some interesting research which reveals that their charges (and probably the charges of most other accountants) are less than half those charged by either the banks or the public trustee.

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REVIEW Video cassettes



Laughing around the clock: Richard Pryor, John Cleese, Billy Connolly, and television's favourite comedy duo, Cannon and Ball

Comics who stand up to live audience test

The art of performing comedy in front of a live audience has inevitably declined with the growth of television. The television comic has the much easier life. If he fluffs his lines, there can be a retake. If the studio audience (assuming there is one) is unresponsive, laughter can be added later. All is planned and scripted and little can go wrong.

Even when television stars move into live shows - pantomimes and summer seasons - the audience response comes more from a recognition of well-learned TV routines and catch-phrases than through the humour generated by the comedian. Only a few comics today can transcend their small-screen personas.

Billy Connolly has managed to become famous without the benefit of a television show. His talent is that of the raconteur rather than the comic. His stories meander. He finds diversions. Sometimes there is a

punch-line, often the story tails away without a point. He is offensive without being malicious. There is initial shock at his crude vocabulary, layatorial preoccupations and insistence on bad taste. But these are the trappings, not the essence.

At root, Connolly is a storyteller of, and for, the people. His public is national, and becoming international, but he still speaks to it as if it were homey Scottish.

Connolly is a funny as well as witty performer. His humour is original and unexpected, and he has the facility of being able to speak to a huge audience as if he were chatting to a group of friends in a cellar bar. These tapes, recorded at London stage performances, give a good sample of his art.

Richard Pryor, a black American, has much in common with Connolly, a white Scot, not least in the overwhelming response of his audience and the occasional

Hand-picked by Billy (50 mins) Chrysalis, £29.99
 Billy Connolly Bites the Bum (105 mins) Chrysalis, £39.99
 Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip (78 mins) RCA/Columbia, rental only
 Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl (78 mins) Thorn EMI, £35.20
 A Night Out in London with Cannon and Ball (60 mins) Home Video Holdings, about £33

Monty Python is essentially television comedy, which does not transfer well to the stage. Many of Python's most successful episodes are filmed out of doors, and the more intimate sketches, created for the close-up cosiness of the small screen, become lost in a huge auditorium in front of thousands of spectators. The uncensored and uncut version, as on this tape, the live audience consists of sympathetic yet often uncompromising Californians. The occasional Americanization of Pythonesque references draws boos of approval, but only debases the comic impact. Python team members perform awkwardly, and they are reduced to using filmed sketches, shown on a large screen, when invention flags.

Cannon and Ball have inherited Morecambe and Wise's long-held title of television's favourite comedy duo. It is not easy to understand the reason for their phenomenal attraction.

Their art is highly professional, and they perform with assurance, timing and a mutual confidence that comes only to couples who have struggled together for a long time. But there is little that is subtle, either in content or performance.

Ball is the little vulnerable fella, the fumbling innocent endearingly out of his depth, frustrating his smooth partner's every routine. He is the eternal child, veering from malicious tantrum-throwing aggression to pathetic (and successful) pleading for the audience's sympathy.

It is an unblushingly old-fashioned creation. The frequently second-rate material is redeemed by moments of great inventiveness and zany humour. They have, too, an exceptional rapport with their audience, which goes much further than mere appreciation of their television persona.

Marcel Berlins

Providing holiday animation

If the summer holidays are proving a drag, video could come to the rescue. There is certainly no shortage of tapes for children and the quality is often surprisingly high. What follows is merely a small selection of the more recent issues.

As with videos generally, these children's programmes will mostly be rented, rather than bought, but some of them are priced keenly enough to tempt purchase. After all, children, unlike adults, are quite happy to see the same things over and over again; and a video show can be a popular party item.

For a start, I can recommend a series put out by VCL under the title "Cartoon Carousel". They are animated versions, each lasting around 45 minutes, of such classic stories as *Robinson Crusoe*, *Treasure Island* and *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. Tastefully and entertainingly done, they retail at around £25.

More animated features have been issued by Videomedia, a company which can claim to have pioneered children's video in Britain. *Peter No-Tail* is a Disney-ish fantasy about a kitten born without a tail and was made by the Swedish Film Institute. It runs 81 minutes and costs around £37.

The label's other offerings include something called *The Incredible, Indelible, Magical, Physical Mystery Trip*, an American tape (it was nominated for an Emmy award) which tries to be both entertaining and educational with warnings about looking after teeth and the dangers of smoking (47 minutes, £30). There is also the strictly non-didactic comedy Western, *West and Soda* (90 minutes, £37).

Ten Walt Disney feature films are being released on the company's video label this autumn. The most popular could be the recent *Titanic*, dealing with the world of computers and video games.

and the now classic *Mary Poppins*, which made a star of (and won an Oscar for) Julie Andrews. There are also adventure stories, like *The Incredible Journey* and *Night Crossing*, and *Chariots of Fire*, one of the best of David Niven's later performances. None of these films, incidentally, has been screened on television, which strengthens the case for their video issue.

One of the longest video programmes yet produced for children is volume two of the *Bumper Fun Video Annual* from Kidvid. Volume one was released last December for Christmas and this one is timed for the summer holidays, but the material is not specially seasonal. Aimed at eight to ten-year-olds, the tape runs for three hours and follows the format of the printed children's comic with such heroes as Popeye, Bugs Bunny, Superman, Flash Gordon and Laurel and Hardy. And all for around £45.

Peter Waymark

New releases

transvestite: *The Terror of Tiny Town*, a Western with an all-midget cast; and *Horror of Party Beach*.

Turning to more conventional fare, Thorn EMI's latest crop ranges from Michael Palin's recent *The Missionary* to a little seen Samuel Fuller thriller made in Germany, *Dead Pigeon on Beethoven Street*, and the 1946 French classic from the Carné-Prévert team, *Les Portes de la Nuit*.

Another Thorn EMI announcement is that it is releasing Sam Peckinpah's trucking picture, *Convoy*, at a recommended retail price of below £20. The company is trying to discover, thereby whether there is a buyers' market for a rental, market for recent feature films.

In the latest Warner Home Video list is another Peckinpah film, *The Killer Elite*; the tenth James Bond picture, *The Spy Who Loves Me*; Ken Russell's fanciful biography of Tchaikovsky, *The Music Lover*; and James Stewart in *The FBI Story*. Most intriguing, though,

is a film which had a very limited cinema release, *An Enemy of the People*, an unlikely combination of Ibsen and Steve McQueen.

Palace Video is issuing Fassbinder's last film, *Querelle*, almost simultaneously with its British cinema opening, and a Japanese picture, *Oni Baba*, directed by Kaneto Shindo. Represented in the new Rank releases are three schools of British film comedy: Will Hay in the 1937 *Good Morning Boys*, Peter Sellers and Terry-Thomas in *The Naked Truth* and Kenneth Williams and company in *Curry on England*.

Rank is also putting out a 196 minute film directed by Paul Czinner and first released in 1961, of *Der Rosenkavalier*, a Salzburg Festival production with the Vienna Philharmonic under von Karajan and Elizabeth Schwarzkopf. The slim list of opera tapes is further boosted by Verdi's *Ernani*, with Plácido Domingo, from Longman Video, and the same company has the first of a planned series of ballet titles, *The Sleeping Beauty*, by the Kirov.

P.W.

Collecting

Kitchen treasure's local accent

"I don't imagine there'll be much to concern you in the kitchen," said the owner. "It's a dreadful hotchpotch of old and technology - except for an old dresser, left to my husband by his Welsh grandmother. Probably not much good, but it had better appear in the inventory, just to satisfy him."

"There is much to be said for Welsh grandmothers," purred the valuer when brought face to face with the object, "especially when they bequeath family heirlooms of this quality. Did the old lady hand down Glamorgan?"

"Are you psychic? Or can you really pinpoint the area where a piece of furniture was made?"

"Quite often, yes, particularly if it's what is called 'vernacular', the indigenous product of a fairly well defined region. It's like language, or dialect. An expert can detect a local accent, just as you might spot it in speech."

"Sounds like Professor Higgins sorting out 'ackney from 'oxon'."

"Oh, guessing that Alfred Doolittle, like your husband, had Welsh ancestry. In many places, local traditions were so strong that it is possible to attribute a piece of furniture to a specific area. On the other hand, they persisted for so long that they make it much more difficult to date certain things with accuracy."

"I'm not sure that folk culture is really my sort of thing. But do go on."

"Welsh dressers demonstrate the principle rather well. Those from south Wales, made from about the middle of the eighteenth century for a hundred years or so, are usually rather like yours in basic construction - open bases with pot-boards below. In north Wales, the bases were usually enclosed with cupboards and drawers occupying all the space. In west Wales, from the early nineteenth century, there was an open space at the centre, known as a 'dog kennel', flanked by a pair of cupboards. But that's only the start of it. An expert can pick out a detail that was peculiar to a particular valley."

"My husband's grandmother was pretty peculiar herself. But are dressers peculiar to Wales? People always talk about 'Welsh dressers'. Weren't they made anywhere else?"

"Oh yes. Almost every part of Europe and North America made them in one form or another. But the Welsh seem to have been particularly devoted to them, and went on making them as parlour pieces and preserving them as status symbols long after they had been relegated to the kitchens in more sophisticated circles."

"I don't think I like being called a sophisticated circle and accused of relegating the poor thing. It makes it sound like one of those pathetic little football teams. Do you think it ought to be promoted?"

"Well, it is an exceptionally good example of the late-eighteenth-century south Wales type, with nearly all the features

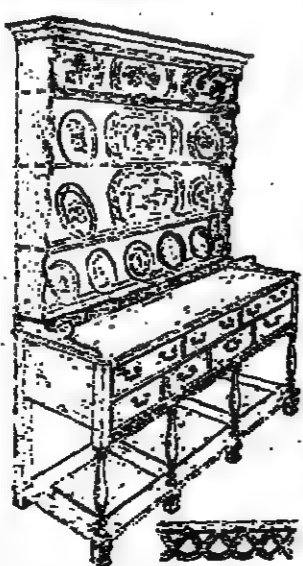
considered most desirable. That doesn't mean that a dresser has to boast all of them to be either genuine or worthwhile, but each adds quite a bit to its value."

"You mean it's worth real money. My feeling for folk culture is increasing by the minute. Please explain."

"To begin with, it's mainly oak, not pine - although the drawer-linings and the shelves are pine - and it's a good rich, dark colour. The rack of shelves has shaped ends, tapering towards the base into 'shoes', or supports, with a nice bold curve to them. And the rack is the original one - not, as is so often the case, a made-up replacement. At the bottom of it, between the shoes, is a row of little spade-drawers."

"The Welsh must have been awfully keen on spices to have a whole row of drawers to accommodate them."

"In practice, I think they used to contain bits of string and unpaid bills. Now we come to the base. One as good as this, these days, is highly prized as a serving table, even if the rack has gone missing."



Solid curves: late eighteenth-century South Wales dresser with detail of the apron

"What's so marvellous about this one?"

"A double bank of drawers, resting on well-turned legs that come down to a particularly good pot-board, constructed with three raised panels. And below that, feet with an unusual detail - an ogee curve to their fronts."

"Sounds very sexy when you put it like that. But I must say I find that fuzzy bit of fretwork under the drawers a bit of a curse. Gathers dust. Pure hell to keep clean."

"That happens to be the most mouth-watering ingredient in the whole composition. Known in the jargon of the trade as a 'pierced and fretted apron'. One could have wished for a matching, fretted frieze to the rack, but that would be asking rather a lot, and I dare say you'd find it even more difficult to dust."

"Not if I wore my apron. No fret."

Peter Philip

More than a touch of the controversial

Glenda Jackson can usually be relied upon to associate herself with something unexpected, be it the *Marat/Sade* production in the early 1960s which brought her to prominence or films such as Ken Russell's controversial view of Tchaikovsky. Returning this week to the West End stage, where she was last seen playing Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun, in Robert David MacDonald's *Summit Conference*, she appears to have made one of her more eccentric choices.

The play in question is *Great and Small*, by Boleslaw Strass, one of Germany's leading playwrights. The English production, directed by Keith Hack, has already been on tour to Leeds, Manchester, Bath and Richmond, and has been received with suspicion and, in some cases, a lack of understanding which has provoked cries of "Rubbish" and the pitter-patter of feet leaving the theatre.

It is an episodic play about a woman's search for her own identity in the midst of an alien environment. The woman, Lotte, played by Glenda Jackson, struggles against a world lacking in morality and human spiritual values until she finds her own identity.

Great and Small was first produced at the Berliner Schaubühne in 1978, ran for a year in Paris in 1982, has been performed in many European countries, and was staged in New York in 1979.

Hack and his cast were surprised at the number of

people who said they did not understand the play, and there has been a good deal of work on retranslation in an attempt to make it more accessible to English audiences. It may, indeed, have attracted the wrong kind of audience on tour. In Manchester it appeared between David Essex and a piece about Rupert Bear; many people, also, may know Glenda Jackson better for her comedy film roles, such as in *A Touch of Class*, than her other work.

It is a controversial play, Keith Hack acknowledges, but after the tour, the reworking and the rehearsal, he believes that there is nothing in it that is inexplicable.

Glenda Jackson is looking forward to its West End opening. "I think it is a very good play. Its themes are interesting and relevant, and the author's way of presenting them in a non-didactic way is fascinating. He paints on a very large canvas and takes huge risks theatrically."

She believes that if the play had been done in its more native home - the National or the RSC - the reaction would not have been so marked. "We are getting more and more of the play as we go on. We probably will not get it all to our satisfaction, but it is a play which is worth all the effort."

Christopher Warman

Out of Town

BIRMINGHAM: Midland Arts Centre, Cannons Hill Park (021 440 4221). During Wind and Rain by Ray Speakman. Preview Fri and Sat at 7.30pm. Aug 31-Sept 3 at 7.30pm.

THIN ICE: Theatre Company present a new play about Thomas Hardy.

DUBLIN: Abbey Theatre (001 744805). The Moon in the Yellow River by Denis Johnston. Until Sept 10, Mon-Sat at 8pm. Production of the 1931 play sometimes called "an Irish Cherry Orchard" and compared with *Heartbreak House*. Cast includes Ray McNally, Godfrey Quigley, Desmond Caw; directed by Tomás MacAnna.

SALISBURY: Playhouse (0722 20333). The Woodlanders by Thomas Hardy, adapted by David Harlock. Opens Thurs at 8pm. Then until Sept 17, Mon-Wed and Fri at 7.15pm (not Aug 29), Thurs at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm. World premiere of adaptation of Hardy's tale of Dorset life.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare (0783 295623). Henry VIII.

then on tour to Bristol, Swansea and the Broadfield House Glass Museum, near Worcester. Admission free. Exhibition of more than 50 pieces of glasswork reflecting the advent of the day-bank furnace which has enabled artists to take free-hand glass blowing out of the factory and into the studio.

MANET AT WORK: National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (839 3321). Until Oct 9, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. London's major marking of the Manet centenary, a show bringing together the National Gallery's own Manet and various other works borrowed at home and abroad to illustrate the theme of Manet's working methods. Four important paintings, *Music in the Tuileries Gardens*, *The Waitress*, *The*



Glenda Jackson, lost among the aliens: "It is a play worth all the effort"

Critics' choice

AS YOU LIKE IT
 Open Air, Regent's Park (485 2431)
 Last performances Thurs at 2.30pm and 7.45pm. In repertory with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (today at 2.30pm, Fri at 7.45pm) and *As You Like It* (today, Mon and Tues at 8pm; last performances Wed at 2.30pm and 8pm). Season ends Aug 27.

Not just a pretty production (Victorian maidens and Thomas Hardy rusticus) but a sensitive, intelligent one, that, in its natural woodland setting, makes a magic

Tuesday and Thurs at 7.30pm
 Howard Davies directs Richard Griffiths, John Thaw, Gemma Jones, Sarah Berger in a play last seen at Stratford in 1980.

Julius Caesar. Today and Mon at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm.
 Peter McEnery, David Schofield, Joseph O'Connor, Emrys James; directed by Ron Daniels.

Twelfth Night. Today at 1.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm.
 Daniel Massey, Emrys James, John Thaw, Gemma Jones, Zoe Wanamaker, Richard O'Callaghan; directed by John Caird.

The Comedy of Errors. Fri at 7.30pm.
 Adrian Noble directs a new production, with Peter McEnery and Paul Greenwood.

STRATFORD: Other Place (0783 295623). The Dillan, adapted by Ron Hutchinson from the book by Philip Massinger. Fri at 7.30pm.
 Barry Kyle directs RSC members, Peggy Mount, Carolyn Pickles, Diane Arnold and Tom Cook plus 200 local people, in the life story of a Stratford man. Performances begin indoors but continue, weather permitting, at various outdoor locations.

The Time of Your Life by William Saroyan. Today and Mon at 7.30pm.
 Howard Davies directs William Saroyan's 1939 comedy in a well-rehearsed production.

A New Way to Play Old Debts by Philip Massinger. Tues and Thurs at 7.30pm.
 1620s comedy, directed by Adrian Noble, with Miles Anderson, Emrys James.

WINDSOR: Theatre Royal (95 53888). Knight of the Long Trousers by Donald Bull. Until

summer evening. Louise Jameson's lovely Rosalind holds the high comedy and the pathos in delicate balance, John Curry (Orlando) proves a champion wrestler and David Williams is a superbly distinguished Jacques.

CHARLEY'S AUNT
 Aldwych (836 8404)
 Until Sept 24, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm.
 Griff Rhys Jones makes one of the best "aunts" ever in a joyous production with an excellent supporting cast.

DAISY PULLS IT OFF
 Globe (437 1592)
 Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees

Wed at 3pm, Sat at 5pm.
 Denise Deegan's straight-faced recreation of a 1920s girls' school - all prize poems, hockey matches and Empire-building values - sends the world of Angela Brazil straight up and over the top. Thoroughly unsuitable, nostalgic and wholesome.

FEN
 Royal Court (730 1745)
 Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat 4pm.
 Joint Stock's beautifully disciplined production of Caryl Churchill's incisive, moving, sometimes very funny play about four generations of Fenland women returns after its New York success to provide London with rich, truthful acting

and an exceptionally satisfying dramatic experience.

HAPPY FAMILY
 Duke of York's (836 5122)
 Mon-Thurs at 8pm, Fri and Sat at 5.45pm and 8.30pm.
 Giles Cooper's clever, disturbing 1980s comedy about three grown-up siblings involved in childhood ritual is still theatrically gripping and full of psychological and political nuance. Excellent direction by Marie Aitken of an impressive cast led by Ian Ogilvy and Angela Thomas.

MR CINDERS
 Fortune (836 2238)
 Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.45pm; matinee Thurs at 3pm.
 Packed with enchanting songs and boasting a winner of a performance by Denis Lawson of acrobatic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1929 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-tennis age.

A PATRIOT FOR ME
 Haymarket (930 9832)
 Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Sat at 2.30pm.
 John Osborne's epic about an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, fighting his way through society to a top espionage job only to be blackmailed as a homosexual, comes up full of drama, colour and subtlety in Ronald Eyre's revival transferred from Chichester. Supporting Alan Rickman in the alien role, Harry Andrews as a veteran general and Michael Gough as a baron hosting Mozartian soirees in drag stand firmly as opposite poles in the Vienna that Lohar should have told us more about.

SMALL CHANGE
 Cottesloe (928 2252)
 Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Mon and Tues at 7.30pm.
 In repertory with *The Beggar's Opera* (Wed-Fri at 7.30pm).
 Revival of Peter Gill's evocation of childhood in working-class Cardiff, assembled from countless remembered details.

Sept 3, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.45pm.
 Jack Douglas, Josephine Tawson, Nigel Greaves, in a comedy about a newly knighted provincial in London for his inebriation; directed by Joan Little.

YORK: Theatre Royal (0904 23568). Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee adapted by Nick Darke. Opens Wed at 7pm. Then until Sept 17, Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm, Wed at 7pm, Sat at 8pm.

Music and humour in an evocation of Cotswold village life in the 1920s.

PREVIEW Galleries

THE SCULPTURE SHOW
 Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3144).
 Until Oct 5, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri and Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm; Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until Oct 9, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-7pm. Admission free.
 It may not be the best, but it is certainly the largest: more works by more living sculptors (50 in all) than have ever been assembled in one show before in Britain. It couples the whole of the Hayward and Serpentine galleries, as well as the South Bank Riverside walk and the parkland round the Serpentine.

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH GLASS
 Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (803 4535). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-6pm. Until Sept 6,

then on tour to Bristol, Swansea and the Broadfield House Glass Museum, near Worcester. Admission free. Exhibition of more than 50 pieces of glasswork reflecting the advent of the day-bank furnace which has enabled artists to take free-hand glass blowing out of the factory and into the studio.

MANET AT WORK
 National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (839 3321). Until Oct 9, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.
 London's major marking of the Manet centenary, a show bringing together the National Gallery's own Manet and various other works borrowed at home and abroad to illustrate the theme of Manet's working methods. Four important paintings, *Music in the Tuileries Gardens*, *The Waitress*, *The*

Execution of Maximilian and *Portrait of Eva Gonzales*, are studied in detail, with related sketches and prints and background material, and there is a special section on the theme of Manet and war.

ARTISTS OF THE TUDOR COURT
 Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 6371). Until Nov 6, Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.15pm, Sun 2.30-5.15pm.
 It is many years since a major exhibition of classic English portrait miniatures took place in London, and meanwhile there have been many changes of critical emphasis and a lot of new scholarship; also, the history and iconography of the Tudor portrait are one of V & A director Sir Roy Strong's specialties. So the present show is both timely and a labour of love. The famous figures, such as

Hillard and Oliver, are present in force, but the show has its discoveries as well, such as a female miniaturist, Levine Tealric, who would seem to have taught Hilliard. Also at the V & A until Oct 30, the exhibition of Oliver Messel's interior and fabric designs.

ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION
 Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 3471). Until Aug 28, daily 10am-6pm. Admission £2, £1. Mon: 50p for all.
 One of the most popular events in the art world; 1,463 exhibits, so there should be plenty of talking points. Last week.

Theatre: Anthony Masters and Irving Warrille; Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Photography: Michael Young.

PHOTOGRAPHY
BARBARA BAHAN AND ELIZABETH ZESCHIN
 Impressions Gallery, 17 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 (447 474). Until Aug 28, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm.
 Barbara Bahan examines three areas of museum conservation - the Egyptian gallery at the British Museum, the harm that befalls historical sites when overrun by tourists and the misuse or otherwise of animal forms as exhibits - and comes to some interesting conclusions. Elizabeth Zeschin shows interesting and elegant portraits.

PEOPLE IN POLITICS
 Stock Exchange, Visitors' Gallery, Threadneedle Street, London EC2. Until Sept 2, Mon-Fri, 9.45am-3.15pm.

A photographic record by the *Financial Times* of the path to Westminster trod by victors and vanquished alike.

DAVID HOCKNEY'S PHOTOGRAPHS
 Knoedler Kaslin, 22 Cork Street, London W1 (439 1096). Until Aug 30 Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm.
 For 18 months David Hockney has been making an assault on the monocular vision of contemporary photography. Each large finished piece is constructed from hundreds of 8in x 4in colour prints through which he has deliberately attempted to convey time and space in a way similar to the cubist painters by giving a multiple view of a single subject seen over a period of time. His experiments, he says, are attempts to push photography into new expressive areas.

PREVIEW Films

Conflict between internal gods

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence, a Japanese-British production directed by Nagisa Oshima, offers a wide variety of cultural shocks. For British audiences, there is the spectacle of David Bowie solemnly declaring "I am a soldier with His Majesty's army" and singing "Rock of Ages" very badly.

Japanese audiences have further surprises in store. The amoral commander of the Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in 1942 is played by one of the highest pop stars, Ryuchi Sakamoto (also responsible for the seductive soundtrack music). Takeshi - a renowned comic - appears without jokes as a brutal sergeant. The only main actor with his familiar image intact, Tenzô Kamiya, cast as the intellectual Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence.

The sense of dislocation provoked by such casting is crucial to Oshima's purpose: in adapting Sir Laurence van der Post's novel *The Seed and the Sower* he was determined to get beyond stereotypes. As he

worked on the script in 1981, he told one interviewer that the film's chief battles would be internal - "a conflict between the gods inside the British soldiers and the gods inside the Japanese soldiers". The Japanese have their strict codes of honour; the prisoners are variously propelled by unthinking belligerence or, in the case of Bowie's major, private memories of past betrayals. The conflicts were shot at a cost of some \$6m in Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands. Auckland, New Zealand, provided the bizarre flashbacks to Bowie's childhood.

Thematically, Oshima remained on home territory. Violence, death, love, honour, the effect of history on social systems on the individual: all have governed Oshima's work since he struck out as an independent director with films like *Death by Hanging* (1968), *Diary of a Shinjuku Thief* (1968) and *The Ceremony* (1971). With *In the Realm of the Senses* (1976) and *Empire of Passion* (1978), co-produced

with France, Oshima moved into the international arena. Placed alongside these exotic spectacles, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* may seem modest, unprovocative. Sir Laurence van der Post, however, has no doubt about its merits: a "great and deeply moving film", he has declared, "the only war film I have ever seen that does not exploit the surface drama and horrors of war, but penetrates deep into the light and meaning of war in the human spirit."

Geoff Brown

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence begins its commercial run in London on Thurs at the Camden Plaza and ABC cinemas in Shaftesbury Avenue, Falm Road and Grosvenor Road. The film also opens the Edinburgh Film Festival (tonight, at the Playhouse). On Wed, Oshima gives a Guardian Lecture at the National Film Theatre, London. Retrospective seasons of Oshima films begin at the Edinburgh Festival tomorrow and at the National Film Theatre on Sept 1.



Change of rock: David Bowie as the disturbed POW, Major Jack Celliers

Critics' choice

BUSTER KEATON SEASON
Barbican Cinema One (028 8795)
Until Aug 31

Seven films this week by the silent cinema's nimblest clown: *The Navigator*, brilliantly set on a marooned ship today; tomorrow, the highly imaginative *Sherlock Jr* (today, Wed); *Steamboat Bill Jr*, with its astonishing cyclone (Mon, Fri); *College* (Wed); *Go West and The General* (Fri). Only *Batling Butler* (Mon, Tues) disappoints. The excellent Richard McLaughlin provides piano accompaniment on Thurs, Fri and Sat.

DIAL M FOR MURDER (PG)
ICA Cinema, The Mall (030 3647)
Until Sept 7 (closed Mon)

Seen without the original 3D effects, Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film of Frederick Knott's cosily conventional thriller is a fusty piece of cinema. The 3D version (never before released in Britain) transforms the film into an absorbing, audacious game with objects, people and space. Ray Milland plays the tennis pro with murderous intentions towards his wife (Grace Kelly). Also featured: a pair of scissors, various lachryms and, of course, a telephone.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15)
Camden Plaza (485 2443)
Until Wed

Ingrmar Bergman's amazing evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional opulence, beauty and lightness of touch. Traditional Bergman themes are gently woven into the mixed fortunes of a Swedish family early in the century. Masterful, loving performances.

LE JOUR SE LEVE (15)
Academy 3, Oxford Street (437 8819)

Jean Gabin as a besieged murderer going through his last hours. A welcome revival of French fatalism, written by Jacques Prévert and directed by Marcel Carné in 1939; with Jules Berry and Arletty.

THE KING OF COMEDY (PG)
Cinecine, Penton Street (930 0631)

Greta Garbo (483 0631). A comedy only on the surface: deep down, Martin Scorsese's striking film offers a bleak, low-key examination of desperate people trapped in fantasies. Jerry Lewis gives a remarkable, sour performance as a TV star kidnapped by an ambitious fan; Robert de Niro and newcomer Sandra Bernhard are hardly less impressive.

OCTOPUSSY (15)
Classic Chelsea (352 5006)
Classic Leicester Square (437 1234)

Odeon Kensington (602 6644). Odeon Marble Arch (723 2011/2).

The Bond films have proved their point by selling a billion tickets. Although it is hard nowadays to stay ahead of real-life technology, Bond's flying jeeps, fountain-pen lasers and other toys are still the products of strip-cartoon magic. In the latest episode the essence remains the same, as does the casting of Bond (a now more cautiously dashing Roger Moore), Miss Moneybags (Lois Maxwell) and old Q (Desmond Llewellyn). Jorg May directs.

ONE FROM THE HEART (15)
Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (836 0691) until Aug 31

Francis Coppola's studio-bound musical fantasy offers scanty human feelings and abundant technological fireworks. Lovers and lovers shift positions one holiday weekend in Las Vegas; the heart is unmoved, but the eye is beguiled.

PAULINE AT THE BEACH (15)
Academy 2, Oxford Street (437 5123)

Eric Rohmer's latest conversational trifle about young love, peopled with annoying characters (Amanda Langley). The scenery, though, suits the season perfectly when the waves and sea breeze start rolling in, you feel like diving into the screen.

THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH (15)
Classic Chelsea (352 5006)
Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177/8402)

Striking cinematic debut by stage and TV director Richard Eyre: a subtle portrait of post-Falklands Britain, built around a radio journalist with shady morals, Ian McEwan's intelligent script is bolstered by fine location photography.

RETURN OF THE JEDI (U)
Classic Chelsea (352 5006)
Classic Tottenham Court Road (638 6148)

Odeon Kensington (602 6644). Studio, Oxford Circus (437 3300). The latest, ultra-sophisticated instalment of George Lucas's *Star Wars* saga, this third adventure describes the rebel commanders' new attempt to combat the Galactic

Emperor, Directed by Richard Marquand with Harrison Ford.

THE RISE TO POWER OF LOUIS XIV (U)
Cinecine, Knightsbridge (235 4225)
Until Aug 24

Roberto Rossellini, one of the glories of post-war Italian cinema, ended his career making penetrating historical reconstructions. This is easily the most imaginative - an insidious and elegant account of Louis XIV's ruthless power games.

SUPERMAN III (PG)
ABC Bayswater (229 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)

Classic Haymarket (839 1527). Studio, Oxford Circus (437 3300). Warner West End (439 0791). A supercaricature of egotism: comedy jostles with tedious set pieces. Worth seeing, though, for director Richard Lester's acumen and the splendid spectacle of a spiffy, drunken Superman.

WAR GAMES (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111)

The artful story of a boy computer wizard who locates a secret system programmed to play games ranging from chess to global thermonuclear war. Difficult to dislike: the script adroitly marshals current obsessions inside and outside Hollywood, and both cast and director (John Badham) help to hide the occasional structural flaw. With Matthew Broderick, Dabney Coleman, John Wood.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Films on TV

"And how," somebody once asked W.C. Fields, "do you like children?" "Boiled", came the nasal drawl from beneath the strawberry nose. It is not important whether the quizzing took place on screen or off. With Fields, the dividing line between the two worlds was blurred. Before the camera, he was the bibulous child-detester and the American Falstaff at war with the twentieth century.

Behind the camera, he was no less impossible. "All the men in my family were bearded", he was to say in a rare burst of public misogyny. "So were most of the women."

This strange and brilliant funny-man, former juggler and pantomimist, is the alpha and omega of *The Vintage W.C. Fields*, a compilation of clips from many of his early films, to be screened on Channel 4 today (2.45-4.25pm). Some of the scenes are classics of their kind. *The Dentist*, for example, which shows the sadistic streak in Fields at its best (or, depending on your point of view, its worst).

Film historian Raymond Rohauer, producer of *The Vintage W.C. Fields*, has also managed to unearth an unpublished gem of great interest to fans who "collect" Fields: a compilation of clips from many of his early films, to be screened on Channel 4 today (2.45-4.25pm). Some of the scenes are classics of their kind. *The Dentist*, for example, which shows the sadistic streak in Fields at its best (or, depending on your point of view, its worst).

Fields had, of course, a great nose for comedy. The more he drank, the more bulbous it became. *The Vintage W.C. Fields* does not, however, show it in full bloom. These were early, pre-dissipation days.

Peter Davalle

Also recommended:
The Roaring Twenties: The James Cagney/Humphrey Bogart thriller set in the prohibition era, which brought down the curtain on Warner Brothers' long run of fine gangster films in the 1930s (BBC2, Mon, 8.40-7.25pm).

I Married a Witch: Comedy-fantasy about a seductive sorceress (Veronica Lake) which took famed French director Rene Clair to Hollywood and proved a journey that was worth while (Channel 4, Fri, 9-10.30pm).

Republic of Sire Luis: Buñuel's powerful study of a Latin American power game, (BBC2, Fri, 9.25-11pm).

Dance

NEW YORK CITY BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066)
Aug 22-Sept 3, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinees Wed and Sat at 2pm.

Two weeks of what many consider the world's best ballet company. There are London premieres this week of works by Balanchine (Mozart's *Divertimento No 15*, Mon; Tchaikovsky's *Mozartiana*, Tues; Fauré's *Ballade*, Fri); by Jerome Robbins (*Classical Pieces*, Mon; Tchaikovsky's *Piano Pieces*, Tues; Gershwin's *Concerto*, Fri); by Peter Martins (Stravinsky's *Concerto for Two Pianos*) and by John Taras (Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*), both Thurs. Also standard favourites ranging from the classical *Symphony in Three Movements* (Stravinsky).

PACO PENA AND MARIO MAYA
Festival Hall (528 3191)
Today at 3pm and 7.30pm, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm.

Two virtuosos of flamenco music and dance join forces in London for one week only.

MELODS AT MALTINS
Fri, 7.30pm, The Maltins, Snape

In this Maltins Prom the Melos Ensemble plays Brahms's Clarinet Quintet and Schubert's Octet.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight and Fri, ENO's award-winning *Rigoletto* with Jonathan Miller's marvellous New York 1950s production retaining more or less the same cast: John Rainsley as Rigoletto, Arthur Davies as the Duke and Jean Rigby as Maddalena, with Helen Field as a new Gilda. Mark Elder conducts. On Thurs and next Sat, Don Van Allan in the title role and two new Donnas: Suzanne Murphy as Anna and Marie Siorach as Elvira.

SOUTH BANK
Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, excerpts from Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* in a concert by the London Sinfonietta under Simon Rattle. Miriam Bowen, Philip Dugan and Thomas Allen sing.

KID CREOLE
Wed and Thurs, St Austell Coliseum

...and, of course, the Coconut, with a new version of the show enjoyed by so many on their last visit. How strong, though, is their commercial currency? Is it time for the inevitable backlash? Have the Coconuts patched up their quarrel with Coast Music? Will the act have been edited to a reasonable length? What is August Darnell's idea of a stylish summer wardrobe? For the answers to these and other questions, catch the Kid and his troupe during the course of this lengthy tour, which culminates in a full week at Hammersmith.

SLIM GAILLARD
Fri, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (836 0933)

Boogie-woogie jazz operas in bebop-speak from the Spike Milligan of jazz, including "Flat-foot Floogie with a Fly Fly", "Cement Mixer (Puttee Puttee)" and other jive bombs.

The Times Jumbo Prize Crossword
will appear in Saturday next week

Chess

Players made pawns of board politics

The whole chess world is in a state of despair at the failure of the World Chess Federation to get the semi-finals of the Candidates matches played. As a result of this failure it is clear that the most likely candidate for winning the championship honours, Garry Kasparov, has been deprived of the opportunity of wrestling the title from Anatoly Karpov, the world champion.

FIDE statutes forbid in the strongest terms any indulgence in racial, national or political prejudices and it is obvious that the statutes must be obeyed and their provisions honoured. Yet it has to be admitted that, on this occasion Florencio Campomanes, the president of the World Chess Federation, and the most powerful federation within it, the Soviet Chess Federation, have between them made a complete mess of the whole affair.

In the past, I have been involved in Candidates matches, either as one of the organizers or as one of the judges, and I despair at the utter failure in the present imbroglio of an understanding on the part of the opposing factions of the point of view of the players, and of the whole of the chess world who are so anxious to see these matches played.

One has to differentiate between the two matches. It is clear that neither Karpov nor Kasparov wanted to play their match in Pasadena. Both would have been quite happy to play Rotterdam and therefore Mr Campomanes was wrong in allowing the feeble monetary consideration of 40,000 Swiss francs (about £12,000) to carry such weight. This was the additional amount that the United States Chess Federation was prepared to pay FIDE to host the match.

It is true that the money was to have gone to a good cause, namely a fund for developing nations. It is true also that nothing in the regulations states that the president must give the wishes of the players supreme authority; but this has been true practice, as is only right and proper, and that the money was for a good cause does not really have much bearing on this issue. The match should have undoubtedly been played in Rotterdam.

Nothing is very clear about the other match which was to have been played in Abu Dhabi between Vassily Smyslov, the former world champion, and Zoltan Ribli, the Hungarian. Did the players object to playing there? We know that the Soviet Chess Federation did object to the venue on the grounds that the climate was far too hot, but have the Russians never heard of air conditioning?

What is clear is that the chess world has been deprived of a fascinating match, that between Kasparov and Korchnoi, and possibly of a still more fascinating encounter between Kasparov and Karpov. To restore some sanity to the chess world, is the duty of some federation to propose at the next meeting of the FIDE congress in October that the president act wrongly in defaulting the players.

As a sample of what we may have missed I give a game that Kasparov played in the last round of the forty-ninth Soviet Championship tournament at Frunze in 1981 when he was 18 years old.

White: Tukmakov. Black: Kasparov. Q.P.K. Indian Defence.

1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-K3	P-K3
3 N-K3	P-K3
4 B-K2	O-O
5 B-K2	P-K4
6 P-K3	P-K3
7 P-K3	P-K3
8 P-K3	P-K3
9 P-K3	P-K3
10 P-K3	P-K3
11 P-K3	P-K3
12 P-K3	P-K3
13 P-K3	P-K3
14 P-K3	P-K3
15 P-K3	P-K3
16 P-K3	P-K3
17 P-K3	P-K3
18 P-K3	P-K3
19 P-K3	P-K3
20 P-K3	P-K3
21 P-K3	P-K3
22 P-K3	P-K3
23 P-K3	P-K3
24 P-K3	P-K3
25 P-K3	P-K3
26 P-K3	P-K3
27 P-K3	P-K3

A mistake; better was 27 Q-B1.

27 Q-B1 R-R7

28 Q-K3 R-N4

And this loses at once. Correct was 29 Q-K1.

29 Q-K1 Q-N6

30 Q-K1 Q-N6

31 Q-K1 Q-N6

32 Q-K1 Q-N6

33 Q-K1 Q-N6

34 Q-K1 Q-N6

35 Q-K1 Q-N6

36 Q-K1 Q-N6

37 Q-K1 Q-N6

38 Q-K1 Q-N6

39 Q-K1 Q-N6

40 Q-K1 Q-N6

41 Q-K1 Q-N6

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123 Q-K1 Q-N6

PREVIEW Edinburgh Festival 1983

Plain elegance and pediments with a redolent past

During August, Edinburgh swells with the arrival of more than a million visitors. They tread the paths of many illustrious predecessors, for since the mid-sixteenth century, the city's attractions have garnered visitors, tourists and literati in droves.

The first reaction of most eighteenth-century visitors was primarily olfactory. Smollett, who conceived part of *Humphrey Clinker* in 1766 while staying with his sister at 190 Canongate (which still survives) wrote: "the first thing that strikes the nose of the stranger shall be nameless", and warned that "a man must tread with great circumspection to get safe housed with unpolluted shoes". Half a century later, Robert Southey, poet laureate, was prevented from examining the closes opening off the High Street, many fine examples of which still remain, by "stinks older than the Union".

In 1847, Hans Christian Andersen's concern was less with smells than with squalor: for with the arrival of the New Town, all the quality had removed northwards, leaving the old city to decrepitude. "The many side streets are narrow, filthy and with six-storey houses," he wrote. "One has to think of the great buildings in the dirty towns of Italy; poverty and misery seem to seep out of the open hatches which normally serve as windows."

The worst slums were cleared away after the 1871 Improvement Act, but rescue work by Sir Patrick Geddes, the father of modern town planning, in about 1895 ensured the survival of many fine buildings. Those in the Royal Mile saved directly or indirectly by him include James Court (1725), in which Boswell entertained Johnson in 1733, and the outstanding sixteenth-century Bailie Mac-

An architectural guide to the city

Moran's House in Riddle's Close. "Mr Johnson sends his compliments to Mr Boswell," wrote the Doctor on August 14, 1773, "being just arrived at Boyd's". Boyd's Hotel still survives as the picturesque seventeenth-century White Horse Close at the bottom of the Canongate.

Across the valley to the north, the New Town began to appear after 1765, and has attracted a variety of comment. It is now reckoned to be one of the finest pieces of urban design in the world. Contemporaries found it boring. Perhaps the most characteristic was the obsessive John Ruskin, who sternly pacing the ancient mile-long Queen Street counted 688 identical windows, altogether devoid of any relief or decoration "as an example of the

monotony of the New Town. Thus dispensing with the phony, elegant Georgian facades, he then dismissed the magnificent collection of floridly pedimented neo-classical banks in George Street by David Bryce, David Rhind, and others with: "Your decorations are just as monotonous as your simplicities."

On Princes Street itself can be found the Scott Monument, designed by a carpenter who won an open competition in 1844 for what has been called "one of the most vast and intricate piles of Gothic masonry erected in the nineteenth century". George M. Kemp had only this building as a memorial, for it fell into Union Canal and drowned during its construction.

The west end of the New Town contains Scotland's principal contribution to the eighteenth-century international style: Charlotte Square, begun

by Robert Adam in 1791. His influence was such that the plain Scottish Georgian buildings of neighbouring streets - particularly North Castle Street - were required, if they were to remain fashionable, to follow suit and therefore had pediments slapped on to them.

Later buildings include the maverick productions of eccentric Victorian architects Sir James Gowan and Frederick Pilkington, the "Colinton cottages" of Sir Robert Lorimer, and Sir Basil Spence's first garage, among a number of significant 1930s buildings and many examples of excellent post-war architecture, for which the literati still have to write their comments.

Charles McKean

The writer is the co-author, with David Walker, of *Edinburgh: An Architectural Guide* (Routledge, 1982, £3.50).



Historic skyline. Breathtaking as ever, but without most of the medieval splendour.

THEATRE

The Festival's Vienna 1900 theme seems much more fruitful on the visual arts and music sides than in theatre, but in fact it has induced major theatre companies to come up with interesting rarities that promise ideal festival fare. Glasgow Citizens, in the severe Victorian open spaces of the Assembly Hall, open tomorrow with a condensed version of Karl Kraus's vast epic *The Last Days of Pompeii*. Essayist, journalist and aphorist - "Truth is a clumsy scullery maid who breaks the dishes as she washes them up" - Kraus the Grouse himself is played by director Giles Havergal, while Robert David MacDonald translates and produces. The following week, MacDonald plays Baron Ochs in Philip Prowse's production of von Hofmannsthal's prose-comedy version of *Rosenkavalier*.

Meanwhile, in the Assembly Rooms during the first week, Haifa Municipal Theatre stages *The Soul of a Jew*, a controversial new Israeli play about the violently anti-Semitic writer Otto Weininger who committed suicide in 1903 and posthumously aroused Hitler's admiration. Martin Esslin will lecture on Viennese theatre and literature of the period on Thursday.

Women in Power, John McGrath's "decent adaptation" of Aristophanes's two "rude comedies" *The Assembly Women* and *The Knights* for the 7:30 Company, opens at the Assembly Rooms on Aug 29. The next evening, Nuda Espar's company from Spain move into the Lyceum with one of Lorca's last plays, *Doña Rosita the Spinster*. The final week brings to the Lyceum Lindsay Anderson's *Cherry Orchard* with Joan Plowright, Frank Finlay, Leslie Phillips and Bernard Miles.

Also in the last week, in another hall in the Assembly Rooms, the South African Poppie Nomenga Company present their musical play of the same name. Solo or near-solo shows include Claire Bloom as Shakespeare heroine, Nigel Stock as Dr Watson and Alistair Cooke as himself.

Anthony Masters

FRINGE THEATRE

Almost 500 groups on this year's Fringe will, as usual, be at it at all hours of the day. The 72-page guide Fringe programme is much too big to carry in anything but a knapsack. London theatregoers, slipping through its pages, will recognize fringe shows they have enjoyed plus a good sprinkling of miserable efforts that one hoped had been buried for good. There will be a great deal of rubbish and (we hope) some wonderful discoveries. There is a massive quantity of madness which may or may not be entertaining, plenty of student attempts at the classics, including three productions of *Dr Faustus*, surprisingly few new plays, the usual university revues (frequently overrated),

and ego trips and cabarets galore.

The original eighteenth-century Assembly Rooms, now containing four auditoria, are, like last year, giving what amounts to a mini-festival in itself, straddling the Fringe/Festival boundary with Festival events such as 7:30's production of *Aristophanes* and the Haifa Municipal Theatre (see left), as well as a new production of Athol Fugard's *The Island* (originally seen in London with John Kani and Winston Ntshona) by an acclaimed Zimbabwean company; the uproarious Mediaeval Players in a version of Rabelais's *Gargantua* by the Scots drinker and scribbler Sir Thomas Urquhart; more Vienna 1900 with a rare Kokoschka play *Sphinx and Strawnman*, and, for anyone who has not caught it yet, the National Theatre of Brent's *Messiah*.

Solo comedy on at the Assembly Rooms ranges from the scorching acid of "high-energy" New York comedy presenter Eric Bogosian to Neil Innes, Victor Spinetti and mime artist Nola Rae.

At the Traverse, the great film director Andrzej Wajda is staging a two-act comedy *The Idiot* nightly for the next two weeks. A version of Grillparzer's *Medea*, updated from the nineteenth-century Austrian original by the South African director Barney Simon (deviser of *Wozzeck*) is running for three weeks.

Richard Demarco of the Demarco Gallery, whose Fringe record in both the visual and performance arts goes back many years and most notably including 18 shows at Canongate Lodge at the top end of the Royal Mile, including John Spurling's classic *Macbrure's Guevara*.

Promising adaptations include *Vanity Fair* from the Check by Jowl company (also

the old boy to blacken Richard III), *Salome Cabaret* ("the love-story of lust, decadence and striptease"), or the English Touring Company's morning show of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* that promises free samples to five-year-olds of all ages.

A. M.

FILMS

While visitors to the world's film festivals complain about bruised elbows, kicked shins and masterworks projected on to curtains, festival organizers have their own set of problems. Securing suitable films, for instance. The major events - Cannes, Berlin, Venice - snatch up most of the important new products, though subsequent screenings at smaller festivals can still generate useful publicity.

Thus the thirty-seventh edition of the Edinburgh International Film Festival (today until Sept 4) presents a large clutch of titles shortly due for commercial release. There is Zeffirelli's exhilarating film of *La Traviata* (Aug 28); Alan Rudolph's modestly rewarding *Return Engagement* (Aug 27), documenting the clashing ideologies of Timothy Leary and Gordon Liddy; Wajda's magisterial *Idiot* (Fri); Alan Tanner's *In the White City* (Sat 3). Tonight's opening gala presentation at the Playhouse, Nagisa Oshima's *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*, opens in London on Thurs (see page 7).

But small festivals can succeed by pouncing on off-beat titles and mounting retrospectives of neglected, unknown or outrageous talents. Edinburgh's director Jim Hickey has assiduously pursued all avenues. A retrospective of contemporary Canadian documentaries may seem a recipe for empty houses, but the Oshima retrospective, which starts tomorrow, is an excellent idea.

If, for all their mysterious beauties, Oshima's films lack the eclectic appeal of the ideal festival retrospective, dedicated film buffs need not despair: who could be more arcane than Gianni Amelio, a young Italian director of television documentaries and features, or Ladislav Starewicz, a Russian-born pioneer of puppet animation? Fortunately, both offer more than novelty. Amelio's *Blow to the Heart* (Wed) reveals a distinctive talent, capable of handling a combustible subject - terrorism - with rigid restraint and emotional penetration. Other films on display include studies of Bertolucci (*Bertolucci According to the Cinema*, Mon) and the philosopher Campanella (*City in the Sun*, Tues).

Starewicz, by contrast, leads the viewer into a world free from restraint and philosophy, where the varied impulses of a puppet animator, entomologist and phantasmagorical storyteller roam at will. Insects cascade, rats wear brassieres and dance jackets, eyes walk about on legs, monkeys' tails strike suggestive poses. The three programmes on Aug 29 and 30 are definitely not for children.

Outside the retrospectives, perhaps the principal oddity is Samuel Fuller's *White Dog* (Thurs), an extraordinary drama drawn from Romain Gary's novel about a dog trained to attack blacks. Curiosity may also be stimulated by *Pharos of Chaos* (Tues), a German documentary about the wayward actor Sterling Hayden; *Big Man* (Sat 1); a Canadian horror musical; and two striking debuts - Lina Shanklin's family saga *Summerpell* (Aug 30), and Zoe Zimmern and David Fishelko's *City News* (Aug 29).

Geoff Brown

Most screenings take place at Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh. (Box office 031 228 2688, though telephone bookings cannot be accepted.)

GALLERIES

For once, the visual arts are right at the centre of the festival this year. The Vienna 1900 show in the new galleries at the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland is, in effect, the theme show of the whole festival, binding together a number of musical and dramatic events into a general homage to Vienna in its Art Nouveau heyday.

The exhibition itself, which runs until Sept 25, gathers paintings and decorative arts by important figures active in Vienna at the turn of the century, including Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka, Josef Hoffmann, Otto Wagner and Adolf Loos, as well as featuring a group of paintings by Schoenberg never before seen in this country. There is also a Scottish connection, since it was at the eighth Vienna Secession exhibition in 1900 that Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his associates made an overwhelming impression on European taste with their Scottish Room, which has been reconstructed for the occasion by the Fine Art Society at their gallery, 12 Great King Street.

The theme is taken further by the Mercury Gallery, 2-3 North Bank Street, The Mount, with a show of the applied arts of the Vienna Secession 1903-1932, which is coupled with a show of recent work by the latterday Scottish colourist John Houston (both until Sept 17).

The Scottish Gallery, 94 George Street, has an extensive show of recent work by Sir Vienna at the turn of the century, including Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka, Josef Hoffmann, Otto Wagner and Adolf Loos, as well as featuring a group of paintings by Schoenberg never before seen in this country. There is also a Scottish connection, since it was at the eighth Vienna Secession exhibition in 1900 that Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his associates made an overwhelming impression on European taste with their Scottish Room, which has been reconstructed for the occasion by the Fine Art Society at their gallery, 12 Great King Street.

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The Scottish Gallery, 94 George Street, has an extensive show of recent work by Sir

Robin Phillips, President of the Royal Scottish Academy (until Sept 14). The Scottish National Gallery continues throughout the festival to celebrate an earlier generation of Scottish artists, that of Sir William Quiller Orchardson, William MacLaggart and John Pettie, who were all part of Robert Scott Lauder's Masterclass (until Oct 2).

The 369 Gallery in the High Street brings it all together with *Scottish Expressionism* (until Sept 10), tracing this strain in Scottish art from MacLaggart to Phillips and beyond, while the City Art Centre weighs in with a show of *Scottish Crafts Now*.

John Russell Taylor

CONCERTS

What with the Vienna 1900 exhibition, a ballet version of Kokoschka with music by Schoenberg, and Zemlinsky operas, there is a strong Austrian presence at this year's festival. A number of Zemlinsky's rarely heard instrumental works will also be played, including his Piano Trio, Quartet No 3 and Sinfonietta.

The opening concert begins with Berg's post-Mahlerian *Orchestral Pieces Op 6*, then Shura Cherkassky, making his first Edinburgh Festival appearance for many years, offers a recital that ranges from Berg (Sonata Op 1) to Beethoven. Another programme, Cherkassky follows Saint-Saëns's Concerto No 2 with Liszt's astonishing solo piano transcription of Wagner's *Tannhäuser* Overture.

There is naturally plenty of Weber in his centenary year, including the *Pasquaglia Op 1*, *Orchestral Pieces Op 6* and 10, and *Bagatelles Op 9*. Weber also gets in, with his *Konzerstück*, which Claudio Arrau couples with Richard Strauss's *Burlesque*. Still on the subject of piano recitals Cécile Ouselet is, of course, present, and the Labèque Sisters will be playing Dussek's Concerto for Two Pianos with the Czech Philharmonic, who later perform all six symphonic poems in Smetana's *Ma Vlast* cycle.

Schoenberg is even better represented than his pupils, by works ranging from the gigantic and very beautiful *Gurrelieder* to some Berlin cabaret songs. These can be heard late at night, from Reinbert de Leeuw's Schoenberg Ensemble of the Netherlands, with *Pierrot Lunaire* and the master's arrangement of Johann Strauss's *Roses from the South*.

Another Schoenberg Ensemble programme includes Zemlinsky's *Masterpiece Songs*, Busoni's *Bercesse Elégiaque*, Regner's *Romantic Suite* and Debussy's *L'Après-midi d'un Faune*, all reduced for chamber orchestra by Schoenberg. And there are lectures on "Schoenberg the Painter" and Schoenberg the Musician" while the Edinburgh Arts Centre have a programme called "Alma Mahler and Her World".

Mahler himself is present, of course, with his *Symphonies* Nos 4 and 10, the latter completed for him by Deryck Cooke. Other symphonies in-

clude Nielsen's "Inextinguishable", Beethoven's "Eroica" and Haydn's "La Passione". Exotica include Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's *Rhapsody*, a suite from Rameau's *Le Temple de la Gloire*, Eisler's *Palmstrom* and Caplet's *Le Masque de la Mort Rouge*.

Max Harrison

OPERA

Opera at the Festival starts in the King's Theatre with a double-bill by Zemlinsky, teacher and brother-in-law of Schoenberg, who wrote of him: "I do not know one composer after Wagner, who could satisfy the demands of the theatre better, or with more musical substance than Zemlinsky".

The Hamburg State Opera presents on Monday and Wednesday *A Florentine Tragedy* and *The Birthday of the Infanta*, both based on Oscar Wilde stories and both highly individual pieces behind the echoes of Strauss. Mahler and Schoenberg himself. Productions are by Adolf Dresen with Gerd Albrecht conducting.

Flanking the Zemlinsky are three performances in German of *Die Zauberflöte* on Tues, Thurs and Aug 27 in a fresh, pentamimetic production by Achim Freyer, conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi, with a cast including Helen Donath, Carls del Rê and Kurt Möll. Top price seats are gone, but there is plenty of choice left for both operas in the rest of the house.

After its great success in Geneva, Scottish Opera's production of Britten's last opera, *Death in Venice* visits Edinburgh for (sadly) only one performance on Friday, before visiting to Newcastle and Liverpool. Anthony Rolfe Johnson is a strong, freshly-pounded Aschenbach under Rodrick Brydon's baton in a production by Francois Rochaix, apparently strictly tailored to the King's Theatre, but still not to be missed. The opera is already sold out; but the resales office at 21 Market Street may have some returns on the day.

The Opera Theatre of St. Louis is the first American opera company ever to visit the Festival, and they bring one new American work and one in homage to Delius both of which were admired by John Higgins, who saw them on home

territory earlier this year. Stephen Paulus's *The Position Always Rings Twice*, from James M. Cain's novel, has already been the subject of two films. Now the California highway murder story is set to jolt Edinburgh on Sept 6 and 9 in a King's Theatre production by Colin Graham, who also wrote the libretto. *Fantasmagoria* and *Gerda*, Delius's last opera, comes in between on Sept 8 and 10, and tickets are available for both operas at most prices.

Cambridge University Opera present an enterprising trio of *Fidelio*, *The Light House* and *The Terrorist* at Canongate Lodge in the Royal Mile between Aug 26 and Sept 10. *The Terrorist* is a new short piece by Terence Stutter about a group of terrorists who admit a dangerous sixth member to their cell. It sounds like a nice bit of afternoon entertainment - at 3.30 pm from Aug 28 to Sept 5. It will be good to see a new production of Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Light House* which started life in Edinburgh three years ago: just four performances from Sept 6 to 10, at 3.30 pm. *Fidelio* runs for the entire period, starting later at 5.15 pm.

Hilary Finch

ROCK & JAZZ

Tenor saxophonists are the heavyweights of jazz, and none plays harder punch than George Coleman, an American post-bop improviser grew up in Memphis with Booker Little, who preceded Wayne Shorter in Miles Davis's great quintet of the 1960s and has subsequently made an outstanding reputation both as a freelance soloist and as the leader of a rambling octet. For two nights at Queen's Hall (Aug 26 and 27) he leads a quartet including the outstanding pianist Horace Parlan.

Other highlights of the jazz programme, which is titled "Round Midnight", are the formidable blues number by pianist Memphis Slim (Aug 24 and 25), the exquisite flugelhornist Art Farmer (Sept 3) and the regrouped jazz-rock outfit National Health, once part of the Soft Machine family and currently featuring the saxophonists Elton Dean and Jimmy Hastings. On Aug 21, Digby Fairweather gives the premiere of his "Songs for Sandy", dedicated to the late Sandy Brown, one of Scotland's several jazz musicians of world class.

Richard Williams

DANCE

In the official programme, dance is confined to weeks two and three. This year's Tennent Caledonian Award commission is *Mörder Hoffnung der Frauen* ("Murderer, Hope of Women"), with choreography by Glen Tetley, based on a play by Kokoschka. Nadine Baylis's design is also after Kokoschka; the music is by Schoenberg. Ballet Rambert dance it (King's, Aug 29-31 at 7.30pm and Aug 30 at 2.30pm). Rambert's second programme (Sept 1-3 at 7.30pm and Sept 3 at 2.30pm), includes another premiere, for

which composer Christopher YOUNG and choreographer Robert North have taken designs by Bridget Riley: their first work for the stage as their standing point.

The only other avant-garde dance show is a modern ballet, in rock music and synthesised back, by Antal Fodor for the Hungarian State Ballet (Playhouse, Sept 3-10 at 7.30pm). The slide, Proba,

means both a trial and a rehearsal.

On the Fringe, the Assembly Rooms have Saraya Hilla's Egyptian dances (Aug 29-31, Sept 1-3 and Sept 5-10 at 6pm) and two programmes by Second Stride including new works (Sept 6-10 at 4.30pm), as well as less well-known presentations. Several American post-modern dancers are appearing at various hours through the day, most days, in the New York 1st in the Circus group of temporary theatre and dance troupes. Other fringe offerings are a gamut, most of it is intensely weird, but now and again one might find something marvelous. Prices are usually low, programmes short, and you can often fit them in between other activities. At your own risk.

John Percival

PHOTOGRAPHY

The first retrospective in this country of American cult figure Robert Mapplethorpe can be seen at the Stills Gallery, 105 High Street until Sept 17, and forms the photography highlight of this year's festival. Prints on show include those of singer-poet Patti Smith, with whom Mapplethorpe lived for a number of years; the black male nude studies, plus the quietly erotic, almost fish-cold views of American musculature Lisa Lyon.

Studio One, 10 Stafford Street, is showing Holograms from Canada until Sept 3, which are clearly intended to stimulate and excite rather than merely amuse. The gallery's claim is that at last artists have wrestled holography from the hands of scientists. The Edinburgh Photographic Society present their 121st International Exhibition of Photography at the Merchant Hall, 22 Hanover Street until Sept 10.

Michael Young

Festival box office telephone numbers: 031 228 2688 (main), 031 228 2689 (tickets), 031 228 2690 (books).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

SPORT IN AID OF SPASTICS: The proceeds from a day of sports demonstrations go to the Spastics Society. Sports champions present include Sharon Davies, Liz Hobbs and Brian Jacks who invite spectators to join them swimming, water-skiing or doing judo after their shows. Queen Mother Sports Centre, Vauxhall Bridge Road, near Victoria Station, London SW1 (034 4725). 10am-4pm. Admission £5.

EUROPEAN CUP BRUNO ZAULI 1983: Following the World Athletics Championships at Helsinki, this is the second biggest athletics fixture of the season in the world. A host of gold medalists from Helsinki will be present. Crystal Palace, Harrow, London SE19 (778 0131). Admission £3 to £5, children half-price. Events begin at 1.30 today, at noon tomorrow. Television coverage today, on BBC 1 at 2.10pm and 2.40pm, with highlights at 11.25pm; tomorrow, on BBC 2 at 2.30pm, highlights on BBC 1 at 11.40pm.

FA CHARITY SHIELD: Last season's winners of the football league championship (Liverpool) and the FA cup final (Manchester United) meet at this annual event. Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex (020 1234). Gates open 1.30pm. Sold out except for standing room, at 24. Highlights on BBC 1, 10.30pm.

CLIVE OF INDIA: Kenneth Griffith's illuminating biography of Robert Clive, filmed in India and England. Clive had a meteoric

career in eighteenth-century India but when he returned to England laden with honours and wealth he faced the bitter irony of the aristocracy. Channel 4, 7.30-8.10pm.

Tomorrow

BREADLINE BRITAIN: A new LWT/MORI survey examining society's attitude to poverty shows that one in six people in Britain today (about 8 million) cannot afford what society considers basic essentials for living. It is the first such survey for 15 years. Four programmes examining the lives of the poor begin by establishing a minimum standard of living today and identifying those likely to be poor. All ITV regions: noon-1pm.

Monday

JAMIE THE SAKT: The Scottish Theatre Company revival of Robert McLellan's play about James VI of Scotland, on tour before a run at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, in repertory with *Macbeth*. Ron Bain, Mark McManus, Gerda Stevenson, directed by Tom Fleming. Inverness Eden Court Theatre (0463 221718). Opens today at 7.45pm. Then Tues-Sat at 7.45. Until Aug 27.

ELECTRIC ICE: Ice-skating champions Robin Cousins, Allan Schramm, Bob Rubens, Brian Pooker, Edita Dotson and Angela Greenham in a show combining skating, modern dance techniques and live rock music. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, London SW1 (028 4735).



Susan Penhaligon takes on The Real Thing (Monday)

Preview tonight, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 3pm. Press night Aug 31 at 7pm.

THE REAL THING: Tom Stoppard's play at the Savoy Theatre for over 300 performances, today gets a new cast: Susan Penhaligon, Paul Shelley, Judy Geeson, Richard Warwick. Savoy Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (035 2880).

Tuesday

PAINTINGS FOR PUBLICATION: Exhibition of illustrations for fairy stories, magazines, book jackets and advertisements by Anna Yvonne Gilbert, Adrian Sumner, Chris Lister

Sharrock and Tony Wells. The Association of Illustrators Gallery, 1 Colville Place, off Charlotte Street, London W1 (035 4100). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm. Until Sept 2. Free.

Wednesday

CHARLOTTE, EMILY AND ANNE: National Youth Theatre production, directed by Richard Howard, of a new play about the Brontë sisters. Jeannette Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, WC1 (242 7040). Opens today at 7pm. Then Thurs-Sat at 7.30pm; Aug 30-Sept 3 at 7.30pm.

MAN AND SUPERMAN: Peter O'Toole plays John Turner in George Bernard Shaw's play, described by the author as a comedy and a philosophy. Filmed for television during a performance at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. Channel 4, 9-11.35pm.

Thursday

FOURTH TEST: This is the fourth and final Test. England are leading 2-1 and are already assured of a share in the series, although they will be hoping to make certain their victory. Trent Bridge, Nottingham, broadcast today on Radio 3, 10.45am-6.30pm and on BBC1 at 10.55am and 1.40pm; BBC2 at 4.15pm; highlights, BBC1 at 10.55pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS MR LAWRENCE: Nagisa Oshima's film adaptation of Sir Laurence van der Post's novel *The Seed and the Sower* opens (see page 7).

BLUE THUNDER: Roy Scheider stars in John Badham's film about a pilot testing a new aircraft that is ostensibly to be used for crowd control. Scheider suspects that its abilities to film people through walls and fire its own electric cannon may have been designed for other uses, and risks his life to prevent the aircraft going into use. Cart 15. Classic Haymarket (039 1527). Classic Oxford Street (036 0310). Warner West End (459 0791).

Friday

KRAKATOA REMEMBERED: Exhibition of contemporary landscape photographs and drawings to mark the centenary of the eruption of the volcano on August 26, 1883, on the small island of Krakatoa, between Java and Sumatra. It was heard 3,000 miles away, had extraordinary meteorological effects around the world, and destroyed all plant and animal life on the island. It has now been re-colonized. Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW5 (058 8325). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Until Oct 25. Free.

TALES FROM HOLLYWOOD: New play by Christopher Hampton, seen in 1982 in Los Angeles, where it is set, although the period is the 1940s, and the subject is the colony of German writers working in Hollywood. Michael Gambon heads the cast, directed by Peter Gill. Oliver Theatre, South Sea, London SE1 (028 2252). Preview today at 7.15. Then Aug 27, 29-31. Opens Sept 1.

ASHBOURNE SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW The Polo Ground, Cressington, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Today, Sat, 6.30pm. Adult £2, accompanied children free, parking £1.

One of the oldest shire-horse societies in the country (it used to be said that if you could win at Ashbourne you would win in London) holding its ninety-third show. More than 50 shire entries, in two classes. Also a private driving concours d'élegance, hunters and working hunters, all breeds of cattle, sheep - including Jacobs - dairy goats, caged birds and a dog show.

BRITISH BALLOON AND AIRSHIP CLUB INTERNATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON MEETING Longest, Warrminster, Wiltshire (0985 551). Today-Mon 10am-6pm. Adults 50p, children 20p.

More than 100 balloons on show and taking part, including some from Australia, America and Hong Kong, plus two airships, balloon-parachute jumps by the Royal Marines, competitors, record altitude and distance attempts and on Saturday and Sunday kite flying. Many trade stands and refreshments.

LINCOLNSHIRE STEAM SPECTACULAR Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln. Today and tomorrow, from 11am. Adults £1, children 20p. Hundreds of steam and traction engines and the chance to drive one; fairground organs, market stalls, trade stands and a number of arena events (starting at 2pm each day), including juggling, displays, dog and "Dead End" stunt team and a grand parade of engines.

BAMPTON SHEEP DOG TRIALS Buckland Bampton Road, near Buckland, Oxfordshire. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adults 80p, children 40p. All entries are working sheep dogs, and you should see at least a couple of personalities from the BBC 2 programme *One Man and His Dog*.

MEDIAEVAL JOUSTING AT THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH PROJECT Ambion Hill Farm, Sutton Cheney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Tomorrow from 2pm. Adults £2, children 50p. The centre is on the site of the historic battle itself, which today will see a spectacular jousting tournament, jousting and falconry displays, archery and shooting demonstrations and pipe bands.

Investment and Finance

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 735.7 down 3.2
FT 100 79.51 down 0.12
FT All Share 463.82 down 1.92
Bargains: 21700
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 103.15 down 0.71
New York Dow Jones
Average (midday) 1195.22
up 2.74
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9139.73 up 50.15
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 996.28 down 4.62
Amsterdam 151.5 down 1.00
Sydney AO Index 648.6
down 0.50
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 942.2 down 10.30
Brussels General Index
133.09 up 0.35
Paris CAC Index 135.0 up
0.70
Zurich SKA General 288.7
down 3.9

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling 1.5189 down 55pts
Index 85.7 up 0.2
DM 4.0350 up 0.02
FF 12.1200 up 0.105
Yen 570.5 up 0.25
Dollar
Index 128.2 up 0.6
DM 2.6580
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5142
INTERNATIONAL
ECU \$0.565173
SDRC \$0.694143

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9 1/2
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9 1/4
3 month interbank 9 15/16
9 13/16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 5/16-10 3/16
3 month DM 5 1/16-5 3/16
3 month FF 15-14 3/4
US rates
Bank prime rate 11
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 102 5/16-
102 7/16
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period 6 July to 2
August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989
per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$419.10 pm \$417.75
close \$417.50-418.25 (\$275.5-
276)
New York latest \$417.75
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$430.5-432 (\$284-285)
Sovereigns (new):
\$98.5-99.5 (\$65-65.75)
Excludes VAT

NOTEBOOK

After Anderson, Strathclyde and Victor Products has produced the mining equipment sector's sparkling ups, and Dobson Park and Dowdy has turned in the downs, with falling profits, Mining Supplies completed a strange picture in the sector yesterday by announcing that pretax losses last year increasing two-and-a-half times.
Rockware Group has turned in a heavy loss of £8.5m for the first half. The company, where Sir Peter Parker is due to take the chair next month, has announced a £9.6m refinancing package.
Tribes' interim figures are due out next week, and expectations are that the dividend will be the forecast 4p. But the Government's privatization plans could favour British Gas and a further sale of British Petroleum shares, rather than the sale of another tranche of Britoil.

Angry pension funds seek changes to help limit golden handshakes

Call for central register of directors' contracts

By Jonathan Clare

Big pension funds want a central register of directors' service contracts to be established by the National Association of Pension Funds to help stamp out hefty compensation payments.

The pension funds and other institutional investors intend to protest if Sir John Mayhew-Samuel, the former chairman of John Brown, gets the £400,000 payment he may be entitled to under his rolling service contract.

But they believe that big compensation payments must be stopped at source by giving shareholders more information about directors' contracts and by banning rolling contracts.

A manager of one of the big funds said: "The problem is that we only hear about these contracts when the horse has bolted. These payments are getting beyond a joke and they are bringing the whole board system into disrepute."

He would like to see a central register to which all *bona fide* shareholders would have access. Shareholders have the right to scrutinize directors' contracts but only if they ask. There is no requirement to put details in the annual report.

The same manager said: "Are shareholders doing enough to ensure contracts are examined? The answer must be no. We only get up on our hind legs and

protest when something like this happens."

But the funds argue that the difficulty is only a technical one which could be overcome given the will of all big shareholders to make it work.

However, not all big shareholders believe the idea would work. M & G's Mr David Tucker believes that better education of shareholders to ensure companies would solve the problem without establishing a large bureaucracy.

But the shareholders are unanimous in their condemnation of big compensation payments. The furor at John Brown follows the disquiet over the possibility of huge payments to Mr Jack Gill by Associated Communications Corporation,

to Mr Bill Fieldhouse by Carrington Virella and the growth of expensive perks like houses and cars.

Both the Burton Group and Marks & Spencer have been subjected to furious rows because of directors' perks.

One manager considered rolling contracts "immoral". Shareholders only have to approve a director's contract if it runs for more than five years. Rolling contracts undermine this rule.

One solution would be to change the rules so that shareholders had to approve directors' contracts at each annual meeting.

Mount Charlotte in £21.5m expansion

By Our Financial Staff

Mount Charlotte Investments, the fast-growing hotels and catering group based in Leeds, is to buy two London hotels from Grand Metropolitan for £21.5m.

It is the third big buy that this ambitious group has made in just over a year. In June last year it bought the London Ryan near King's Cross for £3.1m, and in January this year it paid £19m to Trusthouse Forte for three more London hotels.

The latest purchase, which will require shareholders' approval, will bring to 38 the number of hotels owned by the group and add approximately 1,020 rooms to the 3,254 the group already owns.

Some 46 million of the group's shares have been conditionally placed at 41.75p each to raise £19.3m. The rest of the money will come from cash resources.

In January Mount Charlotte issued just over 54 million new shares by way of rights to fund the purchase from Trusthouse Forte. This latest issue will mean that the company has more than trebled the number of its shares in less than a year.

The two hotels being acquired are the Mount Royal, on Bryanston Street, and the Kennedy, on Cardington Street. They bring to seven the number of hotels that Grand Met has sold since asking estate agents Druce to put all but five of its London hotels on the market six months ago.

Mount Charlotte is forecast to



Mr. Morley: seeking approval from shareholders

ing that pretax profits this year will not be less than £3.8m before taking into account the two new London hotels, which made profits of £2m on sales of £9.1m in the year to September 1982.

Four of the eight British Transport Hotels acquired for £4.6m five months ago are to be sold off.

Belhaven Brewery has negotiated a buy and lease-back deal with the Virani group, headed by Mr Mazmudin Virani, aged 35, who owns 15 per cent of Belhaven.

Mr Eric Morley, Belhaven's managing director, is to call a special meeting of shareholders next month to seek their approval for the deal, which will affect Glasgow's Central Hotel, and Station Hotels in Aberdeen, Inverness, and Perth. No price has been put on it, but it will involve the Virani group in running the hotels.

Waring & Gillow £300,000 in red

By Jeremy Warner

Waring & Gillow, the furniture and carpet retailer, which announced three months ago it had received a bid approach, slumped into the red last year. The bid approach came to nothing.

For the 12 months to the end of last March, losses totalled almost £300,000 before tax against a £632,000 profit last year. However, the group has increased the total dividends for the year from 0.5p to 1.25p.

The payment comes from improved performance in the current year. Profits were earned in the second half of last year but were insufficient to cover the losses of the first half.

The group had hoped to make an overall profit but said that timing of its furniture and carpet deliveries had prevented this. Waring does not account for a sale until it has been delivered to the customer. Total

Waring & Gillow Year to 31.3.83
Pretax loss £295,000 (profit £632,000)
Stated earnings 7.95p (8.87p)
Turnover £90.7m (£88.3m)
Net interim dividend 1.25p (0.5p)
Share price 95p, down 7p
Yield 1.5 per cent

sales last year grew from £88.3m to £90.7m.
The Maples store in London's Tottenham Court Road, bought 3 1/2 years ago for £10m, is said to be trading well. The seven American stores, which lost a substantial sum last year, will be in profit in the current year, Mr Manny Cousins, the chairman, says.

In the stock market, the shares dropped 7p to 95p. Mr Cousins, also chairman of Leeds United Football Club, says the Waring & Gillow image will be spruced up in a Saatchi and Saatchi advertising campaign over the next two months.

Lonrho to sue Fraser

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho has started legal action against the House of Fraser group in an attempt to get the proxy cards and voting papers cast on whether Harrods should become a separate

company.
House of Fraser said last night that it intended to contest the action.

Lonrho owns almost 30 per cent of Fraser.

Western oil stocks 12% below winter level

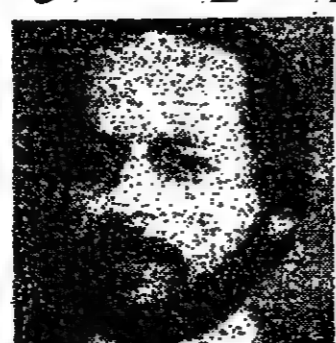
Opec may step up output

By David Young

Our Energy Correspondent

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have brought forward the date of their next meeting on production quotas against the background of reports that the Western industrial world's oil stocks are up to 12 per cent below expected winter demand.

The Opec meeting will now be held in Vienna on September 13 rather than in Abu Dhabi on September 25. The reason given is that Dr Mansoor Al Othman, the Opec monitoring committee chairman and the United Arab Emirates' minister of petroleum, will be in Vienna on that date to discuss an Opec administrative matter.



Othman: 'no violators'

Pressure for a large increase in output quotas or a change in the pricing policy agreed by Opec in London in March is regarded as unlikely.

Saudi Arabia's use of its production as a regulator, the ability of non-Opec oil producers led by Britain and Mexico to meet market demand and a realization within Opec that there is a benefit in maintaining agreed price and

production quotas has removed the threat of price instability.

Opec has already issued a denial that present production quotas are being exceeded. In a statement in Vienna, Dr Othman said: "All Opec countries, including the UAE and Saudi Arabia, are committed to Opec resolutions and are abiding by official prices. There are no violators."

However, Opec may soon be forced to increase its output by up to 20 million barrels a day if Northern Europe and the US suffer a harsh winter.

About 80 days' stock of crude oil and refined products is available in the western world, whereas in past years 100 days' stock has been necessary to ensure supplies.

The International Energy Agency recommends that the western industrial nations should work on the basis of holding 90 days' stock to meet demand during the winter.

A finger in every City pie

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Michael Ashcroft one of the City's fastest-moving businessmen, now owns at least one share in every company quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

This gives him, through his diversified Hawley Group, a stake in about 6,000 companies.

The purpose of these small stakes is to feed information into Hawley's in-house merger broking business, Procraft, which keeps Mr Ashcroft in touch with what is going on in the City.

Procraft is a licensed dealer in securities and occasionally arranges matched deals in Hawley's part-owned subsidiary companies. In the long term, it could become an issuing house.

Mr Ashcroft has just returned from Canada where he has been checking on Midpex, a shell company where he acquired 72 per cent two weeks ago. Midpex is Hawley's only quoted company in North America and could become the vehicle for taking all Hawley's North American interests public.

He is also said to have looked at two more companies he might be interested in acquiring in the US.

Raper to fight Takeover Panel ruling

By Our Financial Staff

The City Takeover Panel is heading for another confrontation with the financier, Mr Jim Raper, after ruling that his Saint Firan property company is obliged, under the takeover code, to make a £9.7m bid for Westminster Property Group.

Mr Raper who described the decision as "a complete nonsense" intends to appeal.

The Panel made a similar ruling against Mr Raper in April 1980 but his findings were ignored by him. With Westminster's shares standing in the stock market at only 19p, there is every incentive for him to fight this latest ruling which requires him to bid at 35.5p a share. This is the highest price he paid in building up his 30 per cent stake in Westminster.

Since then he has fought a protracted and acrimonious battle against the incumbent directors for boardroom representation.

Surprise spurt in US recovery

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The American economy is growing even faster than previously thought, according to revised figures published yesterday. These show that gross national product expanded at its quickest for five years in the April-June quarter - 9.2 per cent at an annual rate - and profits of US companies made their biggest jump in nearly eight years.

A commerce Department report giving revised statistics said that the April-June growth - as measured by the inflation-adjusted gnp - was half a percentage point stronger than the 8.7 per cent rate estimated last month. It was the fastest gain in business activity since the 11 per cent annual rate in the second quarter of 1978.

The GNP had dropped 3 per cent during the 16-month recession and grew at an annual rate of 2.6 per cent as the

recovery began in the first quarter of this year.

In its first estimate of second quarter corporate profits, the department said after-tax profits rose 14.7 per cent.

The gains in this April-June quarter was the biggest quarterly increase since the 20.6 per cent advance in the third quarter of 1975.

Analysts had expected a downward revision in the gnp figures and some said the upward revision would add weight to the view that there is plenty of momentum still left in the United States economy (Peter Wilson-Smith, banking correspondent writes).

The gnp figures were published ahead of last night's United States money supply figures. These were expected to show a slight decline, with outside expectations suggesting a fall of up to \$200m in M1

Banks 'spent \$3bn to restrain dollar'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Central banks have spent more than \$3,000m in intervening in currency markets to hold back the United States dollar, Karl Otto Pochl, president of the German Bundesbank, said in an interview.

Mr Pochl was quoted in yesterday's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* as saying that the Bundesbank itself had spent more than \$1,000m. He welcomed the

intervention of the United States authorities as a sign of greater cooperation on currency matters, but said they intervened only slightly.

His remarks coincided with signs that the dollar was back in favour in yesterday's nervous foreign exchange markets.

Sterling lost 55 points against the dollar to \$1.5180 but firmed against other currencies.

Dow lifts after early dip

New York (AP-DJ) - Stocks edged ahead with the Dow Jones industrial average up more than a point after a dip of three in early trading.

Declines dropped to 50 issues ahead of advances, compared with an earlier 3-2 lead, and trading quietened.

"The market is acting according to the script," Mr John J. Smith, a partner in Palenstock and Co., said. The news has been good in general and there's a feeling interest rates may have peaked.

Mr Smith said oils, particu-

WALL STREET

larly the big internationals, "are coming back nicely, reflecting good yields and earnings expectations. Overall, the market seems to be consolidating in preparation for going higher."

Noting the attention being paid to the money supply figures due after yesterday's close, Mr Smith said: "The Fed now seems to be using repurchase agreements to regulate monetary policy rather than money supply."

City Editor's Comment

Figuring out the numbers puzzle

The latest crop of economic figures is distinctly puzzling. If the mood in industry and in the country was different, they might indeed breed gloom and talk of the recovery petering out.

The most noticeable item was the cut in industrial production in June. This was not at all what was expected and has led to a number of explanations about changing seasonal patterns and, inevitably, if early, the weather.

However, figures for output in the second quarter confirmed the impressions. They showed gross domestic product on the output measure perversely stagnant.

But how reliable are these figures? Some city analysts, such as Mr Gwyn Davies of *Simon & Coates* and Mr Tim O'Dell of *Phillips & Drew* take them seriously enough to take a second look at growth forecasts for the year, officially increased from 2 per cent around 2.5 per cent by the new Chancellor.

Others are more sanguine. Mr Mike Osborne of *Grieverson, Grant & Co.*, argues that the alternative expenditure measure of output has proved more accurate in the past.

Although this is based on tax returns and takes longer to work out, the spring retail sales boom suggests the recovery is still on course, however paltry it may seem in comparison with what is going on across the Atlantic.

Statistics, however, breed some doubt over what is happening in the shops. Retailers have been cutting their stocks, presumably because they were tardy to order more as the retail boom gathered strength.

Yet retail sales fell back slightly in July, suggesting that Britain's shopkeepers might have been more canny than its economic forecasters.

There may have been some slackening of confidence, probably brought on

by storm signals about British and American money growth and the consequent threat of higher interest rates. But this should be a cause for solace rather than worry today.

We have so often been faced in recent years with Murphy's law in economics, that many are locked in the mentality that if one thing goes right, something else is bound to go wrong to spoil it.

For once, this position may be reversed. If output growth goes wrong, the threat of higher interest rates, should recede.

The main reason why many economic forecasters have turned pessimistic about the recovery lasting into next year is that they expect interest rates to jump in the autumn. Messrs James Capel fear 12 per cent base rates.

These fears stem first from the above target growth of British money supply, second from the rapid growth of money and the economy in the United States (with higher interest rates there being transmitted through the exchange rate) and thirdly from competition, most obviously between banks and building societies, for the depressed savings of Britain's high-spending consumers.

Once the Chancellor insisted he would curb the public sector's contribution to money growth by fair means or foul, the emphasis switched to fast-rising bank lending in June, which did not persist on in July.

The upward pressure on American interest rates and the dollar has abated, at least for the moment. And if British consumers stop spending quite so much, they may ease competition for savings.

Mr Osborn, for one, now thinks there will be more pressure for a cut in bank interest rates in the autumn rather than a rise. A confusing picture, but not necessarily a depressing one.

TI sells steel tube offshoots for £3m

By Our Financial Staff

The TI Group has taken a further step in reducing its interest in steel and commodity tube by selling its steel tube stockholding subsidiaries, TI Markland and TI Wilson, for £3.3m in cash. The purchaser is C Walker and Sons, the Lancashire based steel stockholder.

Steel tubes have been a dull side of TI's business for some time, with the whole division making a loss of £1.8m in the first half of this year, to which the

stockholding companies contributed. Combined, they made a profit of £670,000 in 1982 after a number of years of erratic performance.

The combined net assets of the two companies are about £3m. In its recent interim statement TI said that there was no sign of recovery in the market for commodity tube.

It has been trying to get out of its commodity-type operations over the last few years

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Letter

Defending safeguards for the investor

From Mr A. V. Alexander

Sir, Your editorial of August 13 suggests that the "important safeguards" provided by the Insurance Brokers Registration Act, to which I referred in the British Insurance Brokers' Association's annual report, should be treated with denigration.

The sole reason given for this opinion is that you state that there is no effective "competence fund" may I use the hospitality of your column to remind your readers of a few facts:

● Prior to December 1, 1981, it was open to anyone to style themselves an insurance broker. They needed no qualifications of any kind, were subject to no code of conduct, had to meet no standards of financial or professional competence and did not have to be backed by professional indemnity insurance.

Regrettably, under the present legislation it remains the case today that anyone may legally perform all the functions of an insurance intermediary and escape entirely from the disciplines of the Insurance Brokers Registration Act provided they do not use the description "insurance broker".

● The Act requires all registered insurance brokers to abide by a code of conduct and to be subject to the jurisdiction of a disciplinary committee of the Insurance Brokers Registration Council.

They are also required to satisfy the following criteria namely that they: meet the qualifications laid down in the Act; have adequate working capital; maintain an excess of assets over liabilities; regularly submit their business accounts to the Council; place their business among a spread of insurers; maintain separate insurance broking accounts; maintain insurance against professional negligence.

I suggest that these are, indeed, important safeguards, especially when compared with the situation which existed prior to the Registration Act and which still exists with regard to non-registered intermediaries.

Furthermore, the Registration Council, which I must point out is the disciplinary body for insurance brokers - not the British Insurance Brokers' Association - does indeed have a grant scheme. It is entirely normal for any such scheme to exist for the benefit of those who have been unable to obtain redress through normal legal processes.

The Signal Life case is currently sub judice and it may well be that policyholders will obtain their redress through the courts. Should they fail to do so, it will be open to the Registration Council to consider whether the grants scheme can properly be invoked.

Yours faithfully,

A. V. ALEXANDER, Chairman, British Insurance Brokers' Association, Fountain House, 130 Fenchurch Street, EC3

New roll-up fund

Yet another currency roll-up fund is available - this time from Manufacturers Hanover Group, whose Geofund International Reserves offers investments in sterling, the Deutschmark, yen, Swiss francs and US dollars.

There is also a managed fund for those who prefer not to make their own currency decisions. Investors earn money-market rates of interest on their investments. Because interest is rolled-up and not distributed, the "profit" is taxed as a capital gain rather than income.

It is also possible to switch between currencies quickly and usually without charge.

The annual management charge on the new Geofund is 0.75 per cent and there is no front-end charge. The fee on the managed fund is 1.5 per cent a year.

Help for travellers
From this week, members of Nationwide Building Society have been able to buy their travellers' cheques and foreign currency over the counter in 515 Nationwide branches.

In a link-up with Thomas Cook, Nationwide is offering sterling travellers' cheques on demand, with the US dollar, Deutschmark, French franc and Canadian dollar travellers' cheques obtainable on two to three days' notice. Twelve major currencies will be available.

But this new service will not save the customer any money. Unlike Leeds Permanent and several other societies which offer commission-free sterling travellers' cheques, Nationwide is charging the full 1 per cent commission - the same as the banks.

Student cover
Cover for students' belongings, for as little as £10 for £1,000-worth of goods, is available from West Midlands-based Brookhouse Insurance Brokers. Brookhouse points out that the premium is not higher for students in London, Liverpool or Manchester - as it is with some other policies - and the £10 "excess" is not increased for high-risk areas. The scheme is also available for children at boarding school.

Mortgages guaranteed
Good news for house-buyers in the Manchester area - because of the huge growth in funds between January and June, the Middleton Building Society is still guaranteeing mortgages despite the general shortage of mortgage money.

Almost 5,000 investors started saving with the society and assets grew by more than 11 per cent to £29.6m.

Bonus rates raised
Scottish Amicable Life Assurance is increasing its terminal bonus rates for all individual with-profit policies for

claims on maturity or death. From September 1, the following percentage additions will apply:

Term	Percentage	Previously
10 years	35.0%	30.0%
15 years	44.5%	38.5%
25 years	63.5%	55.5%

The above rates also apply to the Home Purchase policy and for Flexipension or individual superannuation policies, the terminal bonus addition is 57% (previously 50%) of reversionary bonuses payable at maturity.

Making a million
"Making a million dollars is the simplest thing in the world," according to Mr Jerry Gillies, the American author of the bestselling book *Moneylove*. And he should know, since he has made that twice over with "Moneylove" seminars where he propounds his "prosperity consciousness" philosophy for a fee of £125.

Three things are required to become wealthy, according to Mr Gillies - a clear vision of what you want, a belief that you will get it and practical skills to put that belief into action. "Everyone should enjoy getting rich," he says.

The programme for the seminars includes such unlikely subjects as the power of music as a learning tool. "The training will not be hard work, but constructive fun. Like money, it is not to be feared but enjoyed," he says.



Tax and jobless

The dead hand of the Inland Revenue leaves no stone unturned in its attempts to ensure that we all cough up.

Even the unemployed, those laid off by the tax man's attention. Now the Revenue has issued an updated series of leaflets for taxpayers in these categories.

Income Tax and the Unemployed may sound like a cruel joke, but since unemployment benefit became taxable it is yet another problem for the out of work. **Income Tax and Strikes and Income Tax and Lay-offs and Short-time**

Work are two further titles in this somewhat depressing series. The titles, numbered IR41, 43 and 42 respectively, are available free of charge from PAYE enquiry offices or local tax offices.

No cheques returned

Williams & Glyn's Bank has upset at least one of its customers who rang us to complain of the deterioration in service. From October 1, customers will no longer have their cheques returned to them. Williams & Glyn's was the last of the main clearing banks to offer this facility and it claims there is insufficient demand to justify its continuance.

"Our market research shows that the great majority of customers do not require it," explained the general manager, Mr Christopher Ruck. "It costs us a lot to provide a service which customers really don't appreciate."

'Home Extra' policy

Pointon York, the London and Leicester-based insurance group, has developed a new, all-risks "Home-Extra" contents policy. It does not cover claims under £50, unless caused by fire, but pays out on all others in full. Property in the house is covered up to the sum insured. Away from home but in the British Isles, goods are covered for up to £2,500, or up to £500 for each individual item. The same applies abroad for up to 60 days in any one period. Sports equipment, bicycles

and jewellery are fully covered and claims are settled on a new-for-old basis. Money and credit cards are insured for up to £500 of currency loss and £500 for each cash or credit card misused. Cover costs £4.00 per £1,000 insured in the lowest rate area and £9.00 per £1,000 in London. There is an additional flat policy charge of £8.50.

Divers premium cut

Professional divers can look forward to a substantial reduction in life assurance premiums, according to SwissRe, the insurance firm which has conducted a study of diving hazards.

Annual premium as much as £200 lower on a £50,000 life policy for a professional diver in the North Sea is a typical example.

The average amateur or sports diver will usually get life assurance at normal rates and will only be charged more than the average for accidental death benefit and disability cover, says SwissRe.

In 1976 professional divers had the highest death rate of all industrial occupations - 7 per cent compared with 0.247 per cent for the next highest, miners.

"The reasons for the improvement, says SwissRe, are greater experience, the change in the type of work from drilling and pipeline laying to maintenance, the tougher health and safety regulations and increased medical knowledge and facilities."

Tax-free investment

Pensions boost for business expansion

The Government's new business expansion scheme has given an interesting stimulus to company directors and the self-employed who run their own self-administered pension funds.

Messrs John Bevan and Mike Reynolds of James Hay Pension Trustees formed the idea of channelling funds raised by companies from the business expansion scheme, through higher salaries from the directors into the self-administered pension funds. The fund can then invest in the company, or in other small businesses.

Any profits made in the pension fund accrue free of tax and are directly attributable to the directors in the form of enhanced pension benefits.

They found themselves acting as brokers between their clients who were seeking funds under the business expansion scheme and others who were looking to invest.

Generally, they advise clients to increase their salary and invest 50 per cent of the increase in the pension scheme (which can then reinvest either in their own company or in other companies) and 50 per cent direct into other investments. Both types of investment attract tax relief at the investor's top rate.

The result has been a large number of enquiries from clients for projects to invest in. "Interestingly, we have found that because our clients are self-made men they are prepared to accept far greater risks than established institutions," says Mr John Bevan.

The first such scheme they are putting together involves a City restaurant owner who wishes to start a chain of specialized fish restaurants.

These will include the old-fashioned fish and chip counter, extend onto a formal fish restaurant, then onto a champagne and oyster bar.

The owner found that the bank were insufficient assets to back-up the borrowing requirement. Venture capital outfits



John Bevan (left) and Mike Reynolds: Advising clients to increase their salaries



John Bevan (left) and Mike Reynolds: Advising clients to increase their salaries

wanted the man to put everything he owned on the line, including house, car and business, and on top of that wanted a third of the equity and 51 per cent of the voting rights.

"The main problem," Mr Reynolds said, "was that his record was good on ideas and innovation, but his money management was abysmal."

So the trustees have worked out a system to maintain a strict control over the financial reins and let the young entrepreneur get on with what he is good at.

"That way," Mr Reynolds added, "he is doing what he does best and we remove the temptation of putting very large amounts of money in the hands of someone not used to dealing with it. We protect our client's money and control the rate of growth to match cash with turnover."

The two men thoroughly check out the credentials of those seeking backing. "We are not put off by a chequered past. Everyone we know who has become successful has learned through making mistakes. But we cannot put pressure on our clients to invest. That is their

decision, we just check it out and say, "look are you interested in this?" Mr Bevan added.

The response has been excellent. The two trustees feel the Government's scheme is a winner. They claim that clients who have been in business 15 years and have become bored are clamouring over each other to find new projects, expand or gear up to seek a quotation. It seems to have put a lot of zest back into those companies employing 10-40 people and turning over a million pounds or so, the two claim.

There are a number of benefits to running one's own pension scheme. The fund can lean 50 per cent of its capital back to the company, can buy spare or outstanding shares, can invest in property the company uses such as offices and factories or just invest in property, stocks or bonds.

"Fundamentally," Mr Bevan said, "a self-administered fund enables the businessman to maintain control over his own money."

Wayne Lintott

Insurance

Off-the-road premiums to go up

After holding the cost of premiums for two years, St Christopher Motorists' Security Association is increasing them from September 1.

Three Star plan has increased from £48 to £64, with a maximum benefit of £3,000. Four Star plan goes up from £64 to £75, with a maximum benefit of £4,200, and Five Star plan rises from £125 to £135, with a maximum benefit of £8,500.

St Christopher's managing director, Mr Martin O'Neill, said: "There are two reasons for this increase: one is the rise in costs over the last two years and, secondly we operate SCMSA along prudent insurance lines and we believe the 1981 Transport Act, which introduced the penalty points system to replace the old, ineffective totting-up system, will result in more claims from members."

"Penalty points acquired by motorists in a driving period of three years can now lead to an 18-month disqualification in this period. This will undoubtedly result in more claims from members as a greater volume of cases will be processed by the police."

St Christopher provides cover in the event of disqualification following the accumulation of 12 penalty points; mandatory disqualification following a drink/driving conviction; inability to drive through injury received while driving; and financial loss due to an accident while driving. It also provides a car for use for up to 28 days while the member's car is off the road.



Ready for takeoff: Chasley Lambert with the silver models that put him in business

Start-up schemes

Silversmith's model idea

Making silver models was the hobby of Mr Chasley Lambert, aged 20, but from now on it will be his full-time job. He is one of 20 winners in the "Head Start in Business" competition run by the Industrial Society in conjunction with the Abbey National Building Society.

Contestants in the 16-to-21 age group were invited to put forward ideas for setting up and running their own business. Winning entries include such diverse activities as a marine aquarium company, Caribbean catering, garden gnome manufacturing, snooker cue making, printing, cake making and painting and decorating.

The 20 winning ideas were chosen from more than 200 entries. Part of their "prize" is

an office for a year, rent and rate free, supplied by Abbey National, with free advice from the Industrial Society on how to run the company.

Mr Lambert is a graduate of the St John Case College where he studied gold and silversmithing.

Twice a winner of the Goldsmiths' Crafts Council's Craftsman of the Year Award, he was made redundant from his apprenticeship when his employer went out of business. "I tried to get another silversmithing job but had no luck," he says. A friend commissioned him to make a model of an aircraft in silver and things mushroomed from there.

He is now working on two silver chess sets for clients. "I can do anything but I like making models. I have enough work to last until the end of November and I am hoping to get some more lined up after that. I want to specialize in trophies and that type of thing."

"I was unemployed for about seven months and tried to get a place on the Government Enterprise Allowance scheme, but unless you have £1,000 to invest in the business they don't want to know. How many people who have been unemployed for 13 weeks will have £1,000?"

He has now been offered a bench in Hutton Garden and believes he is well on the way to running a profitable business.

Lorna Bourke

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22nd December 1982 against the advice of many experienced brokers, these investors bought

Samson Exploration at 12p.

On 2nd February 1983 they sold their shares for 52p each.

If you had invested £200 at the same time you would have made £2,150 profit in just 42 days.

This is by no means the best example of their investment successes.

The secret of investment success

The only way to make a killing on the Stock Market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the world gets round and prices rocket.

Every Wednesday evening Stock Market Confidential is posted first class to all our subscribers. In it we make comprehensive buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest three 'hot tips' for the week.

If you haven't acted on our 'hot tips' by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat - other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up.

What to buy and when to sell

If you look at the SMC Growth Record for 82/3 shows you'll notice that we aren't shy to include all our losses. This is because what few there have been hardly affect our staggering overall success rate of 80%.

One reason for this success has been that we not only tell you what to buy - but also when to sell.

In fact the average holding period is only thirteen weeks which means you can maximize profits and minimize losses.

Our subscribers can boast some of the healthiest portfolios anywhere with fast in and out profits, and quick capital gains.

Malcolm Craig

Malcolm Craig

Editor-in-Chief

Why you can act with such confidence

The Editor of Stock Market Confidential is Malcolm Craig, if you're a major investor or a professional stockbroker you're likely to know him personally.

Otherwise you may have read him in the financial press, or one of his highly respected investment books.

What you probably didn't know is that each week he chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they have chosen the SMC 'Tip of the Week' and three other of the hottest tips.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

Which means you can act with total confidence each Thursday morning.

SMC Growth Record 82/3

Top Performing Share: Security Tag

Systems: +640%

Average Growth Per 'Hot Tip' (including losses): +34.3%

Average holding period: 13.4 weeks

SMC Weekly Contents:

* Three 'Hot Tips' - act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers push up the prices.

* SMC 'Tip of the Week' - aimed at fast in and out profits.

* Comprehensive investment analysis including gold, building societies and gilts.

* Valuable inside information for long term capital growth.

SMC is a four-page weekly news sheet available by private subscription.

FREE! £1000 PRIZE DRAW

Everyone is welcome to enter our Free Prize Draw. All you have to do is tick the appropriate box on the application form below and return it to us by September 30th 1983.

On Wednesday October 5th, if you're the winner, you'll receive £1000 to spend or invest as you please.

We'll suggest you invest it evenly across our 'Hot Tip' for that week. Because if you do, and

your £600 of shares aren't worth £1000 by November 4th, we'll make up the difference in cash. That's right, we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £600 will be worth £1000 in just four weeks.

Everyone is welcome to enter the FREE Prize Draw. No purchase is necessary.

FREE BOOK FOR FIRST-TIME SUBSCRIBERS

SMC was originally published to help only experienced investors.

But £25 of equal value to first-timers. If you have never invested in the Stock Market before we'll send you a free book: "How the Stock Exchange Works", to help you squeeze the maximum profit from SMC.

HOT TIP HOTLINE

In case you're away from home on a Thursday morning, or the first post is delayed, we supply you with a private 'Hot Tip' Hotline phone number, so that you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

FREE! SIX TRIAL ISSUES

Return the completed banker's order below and we'll rush you the next six issues of SMC absolutely free.

So you can profit from our experts' invaluable advice for six whole weeks at no cost to yourself. If you're not convinced that the vital information which SMC contains is worth £144 a year just write to your bank and cancel your application order before the date shown.

FAMILY MONEY

Regular savers seeking a safe home for their money plus a high rate of return should be looking at building society subscription shares, some of which are offering interest rates equivalent to over 13 per cent before tax.

Many of the smaller building societies traditionally offer an extra half per cent or more to investors above the recommended Building Societies Association ordinary share rate - now 7.25 per cent. With the extra 1/2 per cent bonus paid on subscription shares, this means that a net return of 9 per cent or more is available from the building societies listed in the table.

Many of the "extra interest" accounts on offer from building societies require a substantial lump sum investment from the outset. Subscription shares involve regular monthly savings of modest amounts - anything between £1 and £50 (or in some cases £100). So long as you keep this saving up throughout the year you get your 1/2 per cent bonus at the end of the 12 months and are then free to withdraw your money if you want.

There can, however, be snags, and you should look carefully at the details of the regular savings plans before you commit yourself.

Market Harborough Building Society, for instance, is offering 9.2 per cent on its subscription shares - 13.14 per cent gross - but the rules are strict. You can pay up to £50 a month, but if you increase your payment one month you have to hold

Saving Getting a higher return

yourself to that level for the rest of the term; and the term is three years with no withdrawals allowed. If you do take out money the interest reverts to the ordinary share rate. But the bonus is added every half year instead of at the end of the year and so compounds at a faster rate than with most other building societies.

Totally, the Leamington Spa Building Society took its subscription share accounts off the market this week. This society also required a three-

year commitment, but was paying 10 per cent net of basic rate tax.

It is possible to get both a higher return and reasonably liberal withdrawal terms. The Paddington Building Society, for instance, is offering 9.25 per cent, equivalent to 13.21 per cent gross, on savings of up to £100 a month. You can make withdrawals of up to twice your monthly payment during the course of the year.

The Swindon-based North Wilt Ridgeway offers the same return. Here you can make one withdrawal a year of up to half the balance of the account with no interest penalty. Both these subscription accounts run for a year.

The Brighton-based Citizens Regency offers only one withdrawal a year, as does the Holmesdale Benefit. Clearly investors must inquire carefully about the withdrawal facilities on all these accounts.

RETURN ON A £10 A-MONTH INVESTMENT IN A BUILDING SOCIETY/INSURANCE SCHEME

Meriden Building Society	Cash Value	Net Yield p.a.
4 years and 1 day		
Aged 30 next	£635	13.2%
Aged 40 next	£828	12.7%
Aged 50 next	£815	11.8%
7 years		
Aged 30 next	£1,232	10.8%
Aged 40 next	£1,219	10.5%
Aged 50 next	£1,193	9.9%
10 years		
Aged 30 next	£2,042	10.3%
Aged 40 next	£2,020	10.1%
Aged 50 next	£1,978	9.7%

Retirement

Changes in pension rules make it easier for women to claim benefits

Nothing is more annoying for a married woman than to reach retiring age only to be told that she cannot get a pension until her husband retires too.

Yet that is what many thousands of women, who may have paid little or nothing by way of national insurance over the years, are being told.

As men retire at 65 and women at 60, there is not problem for a woman five or more years younger than her husband. She gets a pension when she reaches 60. But the situation can be particularly galling for women who are older than their husbands, or around the same age.

Be that as it may, this is the penalty many have to put up with for not having worked, or for having chosen to pay the married woman's special low rate of national insurance contributions in years past.

However, things are changing. Most women can no longer choose to pay the lower stamp. Those who could, but have been away from work for more than two tax years, find that they now have to pay the full amount if they go back to work.

This in itself can bring benefits, especially to women who would otherwise be in the position of having to wait until their husbands retire to get a pension.

The reason for this is that where national insurance is paid for only a few years, a smaller than normal pension can be had in return. Someone, for in-

stance, who paid just 10 years of contributions would get a pension of around 25 to 30 per cent of the full amount - £8 to £10 a week compared with the full £32.50.

It is not, therefore, too difficult for a woman who worked for a number of years before marriage then returns to work five years, say, before reaching 60, to accumulate the necessary national insurance payments for a pension of her own.

In addition, a woman who returns to work now starts to

A woman keeps any earnings-related pension of her own

build up some entitlement to an extra earnings-related pension, provided she is not in an approved company pension scheme.

What, then, will she get on retirement at 60? The main advantage is that she will not have to wait until her husband retires at 65 in order to get a pension. Because she has paid her own contributions she will get her own pension, even if this is a lower amount. On top of this will be the earnings-related slice, and also any graduated pension which she may have amassed between 1961 and 1975.

But the bonus is that when her husband eventually does

retire, she will be able to exchange her own pension for one from her husband's contribution payments, if it will be higher than her own pension. The married woman's pension paid in this way is currently £19.70 a week.

This all means that a woman who is the same age as her husband, can have five years' pension of her own. A woman who is older than her husband will, of course, have more. This can be worth quite a lot of money. A 30 per cent pension comes to about £10 a week at present. That is £520 a year, or more than £2,500 over five years, not counting annual increases.

When a woman does swap her own pension for one from her husband, she keeps any earnings-related and graduated pension of her own, and adds this on top.

So, if you are within a few years of retirement and contemplating going back to work, it is worth bearing in mind that a couple of years in a job could make the difference between getting a pension and not getting one.

It may be worth checking how you stand as regards contributions with the DHSS.

If you have worked in the past, you might be surprised to find that you are already in line for at least the minimum 25 per cent pension rate.

Ian McDonald

Insurance funds

Investing on the rebound for better interest

To turn an investment of £10,000 a year into £153,000 in 11 years, you may think, would require an incredible luck or considerable investment skills.

No, if you use one of the oldest investment schemes in the book - investing each year in the worst performing unit trust or fund.

Past performance is no guarantee of the future, but the scheme does seem to work. Investment advisers, Mr Charles Fry recommends that clients use insurance company funds rather than unit trusts, as switching between the funds is cheaper than buying and selling unit trusts, and there is no danger of incurring a capital gains tax liability.

Utilized insurance company funds are also more tax efficient for those who pay higher rate tax, but want to take income from the investment. With the regular investment scheme you also get tax relief on the premiums, which again enhances the investment performance.

The figures in the tables are based on a one-off £10,000 investment in M & G flexible investment bonds which offer 16 funds to choose from and have a reliable track record on performance. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the scheme is how badly you would have fared had you invested in the best performing funds.

You would have needed some nerve to persevere with the scheme from 1972 to 1974 when the stock market crashed, but since then, investing in the worst performing fund has produced steady and sometimes spectacular gains.

M & G FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT BONDS: WORST PERFORMANCE

An investment of £10,000 made on January 1, 1972, and switched on each ensuing January 1, into the worst performing M & G Bond Fund of the previous year.

Year	Fund	Amount invested at beginning of year	Value at end of year	Loss switching fee	Amount to be invested
1972	Equity	10,000	13,124	Free	13,124
1973	Property	13,124	16,855	25.00	16,830
1974	American	16,830	10,482	25.00	10,457
1975	Extra Yield	10,457	28,234	25.00	28,209
1976	Property	28,209	29,769	25.00	29,744
1977	Extra Yield	29,744	45,742	25.00	45,717
1978	Japan	45,717	67,090	25.00	67,065
1979	Gift	67,065	78,048	10.00	78,038
1980	Japan	78,038	89,357	10.00	89,347
1981	Extra Yield	89,347	108,220	10.00	108,210
1982	Gift	108,210	153,547	10.00	153,537

M & G FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT BONDS: BEST PERFORMANCE

An investment of £10,000 made on January 1, 1972, and switched on each ensuing January 1, into the best performing M & G Bond Fund of the previous year.

Year	Fund	Amount invested at beginning of year	Value at end of year	Loss switching fee	Amount to be invested
1972	Recovery	10,000	13,482	Free	13,482
1973	Japan	13,482	10,791	25.00	10,766
1974	Property	10,766	8,555	25.00	8,530
1975	Japan	8,530	13,397	25.00	13,372
1976	Extra Yield	13,372	12,880	25.00	12,855
1977	American	12,855	11,670	25.00	11,645
1978	Recovery	11,645	14,065	25.00	14,040
1979	Japan	14,040	10,752	10.00	10,742
1980	Recovery	10,742	11,788	10.00	11,778
1981	Equity	11,778	13,143	10.00	13,133
1982	Japan	13,133	13,934	10.00	13,924

Mr Fry introduces an element of sophistication into the scheme by actively choosing the next year's fund rather than going straight into the worst performer.

"There may come a time when a world economic crisis would make it sensible to run for cover by switching the whole investment into the cash fund," he says.

He also believes that investors should have the scheme managed. Otherwise they are liable to lose their nerve.

AVERAGE Return: 66.62% in one year.

In our August 1982 Investment Action Report, we drew our clients' attention to just FOUR recommended unit trusts. According to Planned Savings Statistics (August 1983), these were the performances of our recommended trusts:-

	Value of a £5,000 investment
GT Technology & Growth	£10,590
ProFic North American	£10,355
Legal & General Gilt Trust	£6,440
Gartmore UK Smaller Companies Recovery	£6,030

It's worth noting that these trusts were ALL available at an exclusive 1% discount.

To judge how good these figures are, look at the returns in a building society over the same period. A £5,000 investment would have produced £353 for a basic rate taxpayer and even less for a higher rate taxpayer.

If you'd like to know what the Investment Action Report is recommending now, send for your free copy without delay.

N.B. It should be remembered that unit values can fall as well as rise. While past performance cannot necessarily be taken as a guide to the future, the skills of the management groups involved are clearly well above average.

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Amount available for regular savings £ _____ per year/month
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JULIAN GIBBS ASSOCIATES

AUGUST 1983

Building Society News

Are you married and over 50 years old?

Now there is a Building Society savings account exclusively for you, which can improve the return on your investment by as much as **36%**

In the last two years interest rates have fallen steadily and this has been bad news for investors. Despite the small increase from July 1st, your interest would still have to leap by a further 34% to recover to levels paid on normal accounts just 17 months ago. The new Leicestercard 50 Plus Account from the Leicester Building Society offers a

highly attractive way of reversing this trend. Compare the rates with the return from your present building society savings account. Then answer this question - why settle for lower interest rates when a switch to the Leicester will give your savings an immediate boost?

For the first 4 years you have the option to take an income of 10% p.a. free of tax from your building society account* (if you are a basic rate taxpayer). This is equivalent to 14.28% gross.

NET 10% INCOME OPTION

*On the balance of your investment, after £100 has been used to open a Leicester Share Account (currently yielding 7.25%). The high rates shown above are achieved by making full use of income tax concessions currently available to individuals and to building societies. Rates will vary as the general level of interest rates rises or falls, or if tax rates change. If interest rates fall, it will still be possible to take a 10% income per annum, but there will obviously be a reduction in your invested capital. The account is not designed for short-term savers - full details of investment terms will be sent to you.



PLUS - The benefits of this Leicestercard, FREE

As well as an excellent return on your money, the account is proportionately free of a Leicester Building Society's charges. The Leicestercard will help your money go further. It's a discount card that gives you all sorts of special times from hotels and restaurants. You can even apply for a new car or a new house. You can even apply for a new car or a new house. You can even apply for a new car or a new house.

HOW TO APPLY

You may open an Account for as little as £2,000 or as much as £10,000; the choice is yours. But remember, the Leicestercard 50 Plus Account is offered to married couples only on a limited subscription series. You should send for details now. Simply post the coupon below, or call in at your local Leicester Building Society branch for full details of how you can automatically boost your current building society returns without risk.

PLEASE The Leicestercard 50 Plus Account is available to all married savers over 50, not just existing Leicester Building Society customers.

To: Leicestercard 50 Plus Account Division
M & P Financial Services Limited, Freeport, BN1 1ZY
Tel: Brighton (0273) 725392/3 or London (01) 935 0188/7917

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
TEL. NO.: _____

NO STAMP
IS REQUIRED

Investment Conclusion:

"Whether you want to invest regularly from income or invest a lump sum, it is difficult to find any other scheme that can offer both the same security as a Building Society Linked Plan and the same return." WHAT INVESTMENT January 1983

Leicester Building Society

in conjunction with M & P Financial Services Limited, a member company of Yorkshire and Lancashire Investment Trust plc.

Hill Samuel International Currency Fund Limited



A Company registered with limited liability in Jersey under the Companies (Jersey) Law 1961 to 1968. The Shares of each class of the Company have been admitted to The Stock Exchange Official List. This advertisement is issued by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited.

CURRENCY FUNDS

Investors may subscribe for Shares designated in the following currencies:

Deutschmarks Sterling Swiss Francs US Dollars.

Shares in the Currency Funds are designed for investors who wish to keep their cash reserves matched in a particular currency. They may be converted from one Fund to another on any Dealing Day without the Company making any charge.

Investments for each Currency Fund will at all times be matched in the relevant currency and held mainly in the form of bank deposits.

Objectives: To provide investors with:

- * The advantage of dealing in large amounts
- * Security of capital
- * Ready availability of funds
- * Professional management.

Distributions: All interest will be accumulated and reinvested; no dividends will therefore be paid.

The Managers are part of Hill Samuel Investment Management International, the overseas investment arm of the Hill Samuel Group, which is a major financial institution based in London with assets under advice and management of over £4,500,000,000.

MANAGED FUND

Managed Fund Shares will enable investors to achieve high returns through an investment in major currencies under professional management. Managed Fund Shares are paid up in Sterling but will be invested in a selection of major currencies. The Managers will aim to maximise growth by selecting those currencies which will provide the highest returns, taking into account both exchange and interest rates. Although the Managers will diversify their holdings to minimise the risk of adverse movements in exchange rates, it must be recognised that the price of Shares may go down as well as up.

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Please send me a copy of the Prospectus of the Hill Samuel International Currency Fund Limited.

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TEL. NO.: _____

For copies of the Prospectus (on the terms of which alone applications may be considered) and the Application Form please use the coupon.

A monthly outlay of about £50, which rises gradually over

In addition, the savings contracts should offer the option to the parents of using

the market. To avoid having to shop around, they can use the knowledge of a specialist school-fee company, or investment adviser who should summarize for them the most competitive plans available to suit their requirements. If in doubt consult several advisers

18. This additional income for the child can be used to help with fees. A step-by-step guide is now available on setting it up correctly to ensure Inland Revenue approval.

Joe Collins

TRUST

Smaller Trust	(m)	
Small/medium Trust	{	00 00
Large/medium Trust	{	00 00
Large Trust	{	00 00

1) All fees exclusive of VAT.
 2) Dearden Farrow fees include par
 London office.

2) Dearden Farrow fees include partners' time and London office.

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Britoil in the shadow of BP

The possible sale of Britoil shares by the Government has been somewhat eclipsed by the prospect of a further tranche of state-owned shares in BP coming on the market.

Sales of BP shares are an easy way for the Government to finance its spending programme, or arguably a sensible extension of its privatisation policy. The sale of Britoil shares would be less easy.

The Government will have to convince the investor that the present price of about 250p is likely to continue its slow climb from the placing of 215p. The Government will also have to drop the idea of floating a new company comprising the North Sea assets of British Gas if Britoil shares are ever to have a chance in the market.

Britoil will publish its interim figures in the coming week and it is likely that the dividend will be in line with brokers' forecasts at 4p. The company's forecast of a 9.5p net dividend for 1983 should also be met. (Britoil follows Shell in providing for a full tax charge in its accounts while the other companies provide for corporation tax only when it is foreseeable, which at present means not at all.)

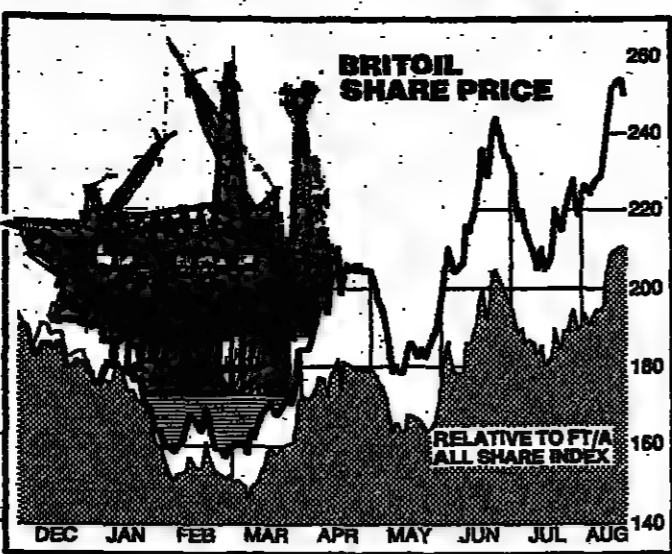
BP will produce interim figures on September 1. The profits should point to a full-year result ahead of the £700m earned in 1983. After the Shell results it is likely that this forecast may well be low, and although an interim dividend of 6.25p may be paid as forecast, the final dividend could be much higher. For that reason alone BP may have an edge over Britoil.

Another factor is the different nature of Britoil's assets. Allowing for development already taking place in the North Sea, Britoil's resources in that area will begin to decline in 1985. But they will be offset by increased gas production and by the prospect of condensate fields in Dubai making considerable contributions to profits towards the end of the decade.

In addition, substantial investments by Britoil have been made in Ireland, Indonesia, France and in onshore production facilities and in potential oil-bearing exploration areas in the US.

The capital investment involved in these new areas will affect future dividends paid by Britoil, although changes in North Sea taxation could counteract this. The prospects for longer term growth are real, if not spectacular.

Having arrived at this position, Britoil could therefore be justified in feeling aggrieved



BRITIL SHARE PRICE
RELATIVE TO FT/A ALL SHARE INDEX

that the privatisation policies which led to its setting up are having a direct and adverse effect on its success.

Britoil has been a willing partner in the Government's programme, so it is ironic that British Gas, which has been dragged to the privatisation altar, could be such a success in the market that the Government will remain with 49 per cent, the largest shareholder in Britoil.

Rockware Group

Rockware Group
Year to 28.6.83
Pretax loss £28.5m (loss £484,000)
Statutory loss £38.5m (loss £2.81p)
Turnover £27.8m (£20.2m)
Net dividend nil
Share price 25p down 4p

There was champagne all round at Rockware Group yesterday: the outgoing chairman and chief executive, Mr Jim Craigie, was celebrating his birthday and Rockware had just raised £9.6m to ease its precarious financial position.

Rockware says its banks were nowhere near pulling the plug and had put up £5m of what it calls "non-financing" support of this loan will eat up half the cash raised. Half-year figures, also published yesterday, show a loss of £28.5m. Rockware is adamant that it will be asking for no more money from its shareholders and the balance of £4.6m will be enough to see it through.

It has raised the £9.6m through an issue of 10-million 7.7 per cent convertible preference shares among 16 big shareholders, including Pilkington Brothers, which has a 19.5 per cent stake. Other shareholders will be able to subscribe for up to one quarter of the

shares and the 16 shareholders will scale their entitlement down pro rata. Rockware and its advisers are also adamant that the big shareholders receive no privileged information before agreeing to take up their shares. Meanwhile, the shares have dropped to a new low of 25p, their nominal value.

It is still too early to be sure that Rockware is back on even keel. On the latest figures only the turnover shows an improvement, with engineering holding its losses. But if Mr Craigie has done his sums correctly the second half performance should be considerably better than the first - perhaps even reaching breakeven point. This should make Sir Peter Parker's job easier when he returns from British Rail as Rockware's chairman on September 14. But there is no chance of a dividend payment yet.

Rockware is convinced that it has rationalized capacity ahead of the pack.

But so far, price increases have not just failed to stick but have instead been hit by heavy discounting.

Mining Supplies

Mining Supplies, the darkhorse of a sector that has produced mixed results for the past financial year, yesterday announced pretax losses two and a half times higher for the 12 months to the end of April.

Losses were £1.78m, against £715,000 last time, on a turnover down slightly to £53.8m. Interest charges were up from £1.74m to £2m. A transfer from capital reserves of £236,000 against £1.02m, and a loss per share of 6.8p. The implication is that borrowings must have risen since interest rates have fallen.

The dividend was held at a nominal 0.1p, and shareholders should not be optimistic about what this year has in store.

It has been an unhappy year for the company, although the precise reasons are obscure because Mining Supplies demonstrates a reluctance, surprising in a publicly-quoted company, to divulge details.

The mining supplies division had been said, at the half-year stage, to have been in profit, but the Laurence Scott electric motors producer had pulled the group into loss after several years of strong growth; thereby proving that diversification is not always for the good. But that situation seems to have been turned upside down by the year-end.

Both divisions have laid off workers, the Laurence Scott division produced a trading profit after the first-half losses. The improvement is said to be continuing in the first quarter of the current year, and should be maintained.

The upturn stems from efficiency, partly the result of redundancies, and an orderbook fattened by stronger demand for high quality specialist rotating machines and defence equipment.

To be fair, a good part of Laurence Scott's problems was the £1m trading loss caused by a "dramatic" fall-off in demand in low tension control gear.

But the mining supplies division results, were depressed by the recession in coal-mining. Present showing, however, the mining supplies division holds the key to recovery.

There is a chance that gold mines will come back into favour. A stagnant gold price and the feeling that the shortage of scrap in South Africa had pushed quality issues up to rather price levels are giving way to the possibility that bullion will gain in the last quarter of the year, and that a medium-term re-rating of the mines could be appropriate. The market may now be prepared to accept yields of half the 20 per cent prevailing only a few years ago.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

W. G. Allen and Sons (Tipton) Year to 31.3.83 Pretax loss £119,000 (£597,000) Statex loss per share 3.37p (6.6p) Turnover £7m (£6.5m) Net dividend None (same) Share price 34p up 2p	Leisuretime International Half-year to 30.4.83 Pretax loss £198,000 Statex loss per share 2.6p Turnover £7.1m Net interim dividend 0.9p (0.77p) Share price 71p up 2p Yield 3.1%
Benford Concrete Machinery Half-year to 30.6.83 Attributable profit £623,000 (£395,000) Statex earnings 2.8p (4.3p) Turnover £11.7m (£14.6m) Net interim dividend 1p (0.875p) Share price 58p up 1p. Yield 6.6%	Charles Baynes Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £208,000 (£213,000) Statex earnings 1.5p (1.45p) Turnover £1.1m (£1.2m) Net interim dividend 0.3125p (0.25p) Share price 74p down 2p Yield 1.6%
Wholesale Fittings Year to 29.4.83 Pretax profit £3.5m (£3.5m) Statex earnings 15.2p (13.9p) Turnover £30.5m (£28.4m) Net dividend 5.1p (4.54p) Share price 28p down 18p. Yield 2.4%	Domco Canada Half-year to 30.6.83 Net income C\$18.9m (£9.8m) (£29.1m) Statex earnings 21 cents (33 cents) C\$63.8m (£33.6m) (£34.8m)

WALL STREET

STOCK	PRICE	STOCK	PRICE	STOCK	PRICE	STOCK	PRICE
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
AAEP Inc	100	240	100	240	100	240	100
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Abounding signs of 'kids with class'

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year's winning total for the best overall performance. Strong finished the week with 2,750 out of a possible 2,850 in the six main events, and Benfield had 2,730.

Joyanne Farr, 17, of Newton Springs, Ky., achieved a

Sunday

TV-am

7.15 **Rub-a-Dub-Tub:** for the young viewer, Police horses cartoon; stories; and a two-tailed sink (highlights from the last series)

8.15 **Good Morning Britain:** with Neil Harris, includes news at 8.15 and 8.22. **Sunday papers** at 8.30; **Sport** at 8.40; **Behind the News**, at 8.54.

TV/LONDON

9.25 **LWT Information:** what's on the night, 8.30 **Play Back** 9.30. **Squash:** Hiddy Jehan and John Easter on the correct grip, basic court positioning and tactics; 10.30 **Morning Warmers:** from St Leonard's RC Church, Malton, North Yorkshire; 11.00 **Link**. Assessment and tuition for disabled drivers, 11.30 **Star Film**

12.00 **Breadline Britain:** First of four programmes about Britain's poor, concentrating on seven individuals and their families who are representative of the findings of an LWT/MORI survey examining society's attitudes to poverty today.

1.00 **The British Marathon 1983:** ITN cameras are in Bolton, Lancs, for the start of Britain's second and biggest marathon. About 10,000 runners are taking part (more at 2.15, 3.00 and 4.45).

1.45 **University Challenge:** with Bamber Gascoigne, 2.15 **The British Marathon:** 2.25 **London news headlines.** Followed by:—Joanie Loves Chachi: A "spin-off" from the Happy Days comedy series. With Eric Moran and Scott Balle. 2.55 **Cartoon**

3.00 **The British Marathon:** 3.45 **The Fugitive:** Kimble (David Janssen), fleeing to Mexico, faces blackmail by a ruthless doctor (r); 4.45 **The British Marathon**

5.00 **The Sale of the Century:** with high prizes

5.30 **Secrets of the Pebbled Coast/Wildlife conservation:** two Dorset spots — Cheshi Beach (shingle beach) and T1 Fleet (tidal lagoon).

6.00 **Tell Me Why:** Youngsters debate authority religion; 6.15 **Cartoon**

6.40 **National School Choir Competitions:** Six choirs that did not win the recent comets are given another chance to shine.

7.15 **Magnum:** The crime buster gets involved with the movie business.

8.15 **We're Back Again:** Final episode of the Yanks in Brita serial (r).

9.15 **Now and Then:** Mary (Tracey Hyde) is called up.

9.45 **News** from ITN.

10.00 **The Bank Manager's Wife:** drama by Valerie Kershaw, with Avril Elgar as the wife whose husband's (Richard Pearson) pending retirement has a traumatic effect on her.

11.00 **London news.** Followed by: **Trapper John.** Conzo becomes emotionally involved with a young nurse who faces dismissal.

12.00 **Night Thoughts.**

CHANNEL 4

9.35 Film: Forgetting All Others (1984) Romantic comedy with Joan Crawford as the jilted woman who is subsequently seduced by her ex-husband. Starring Robert Montgomery. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke.

1.00 Irish Gaelic Special: Robert McCartyne, an Official Unionist member in the Northern Ireland Assembly, is given a platform.

1.30 Birds of Britain: Martin Jarvis narrates this film about our rarest crow – the Chough.

1.00 News headlines: Followed by: *The Bottom Line*, Andrew Likierman, of the London Business School, examines the world of investment and finds it contains a fair proportion of confidence tricksters.

5.30 Old Country: Jack Hargreaves and the all Ireland delights of the Home country.

3.00 Look Forward: Channel 4 trailers.

5.15 Golf – The US Women's Open: Janet Alex defends her title at Cedar Ridge Country Club, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

7.15 Song by Song by Irving Berlin: Non-stop music show with Neil Sherrin introducing Millicent Martin, Cheryl Kennedy, David Kernan and Howard Keel.

8.15 Babble: Panel game, played by Melvyn Bragg, Giles Brandreth, Barry Cryer, Angela Douglas, Sheila Hancock and Wilfrid Muntash.

8.45 The Time Romance: Mike and Laura (Michael Williams and Judi Dench) seem to have come to an understanding. But the dawn is to come . . .

9.20 One Summer: Part three of this drama serial about two Liverpool lads seeking to revive past delights in Wales. They find a country cottage where they want to turn into a home – but there are complications in the shape of some young wreckers. Starring Spencer Leigh and David Morrissey.

10.15 Film: The Invisible Man's Revenge (1944) Jon Hall is the man who believes he has been reborn on his inheritance, and presses his invisibility into service. With Lear Errol and John Carradine. Directed by Ford Beebe. Ends at 11.40.

Radio 4

Macdonald's story of a growing
crocheting community in the
Hebrides.

7.00 Travel; Programme News; Pay
Any Price by Ted Almeyra (8) f
7.30 A Good Read by John Burt Foster
8.00 Gaskell. Portrait of the
Victorian novelist by Barry
Campbell. Thelma Whiteley
and Angela Plesonsky. Gaskell
and Crutches by the narrator
sets also 8.00 pm entry)

8.45 High Street Africa Revealed.
Auntie Smith's Motorcycles to
Cairo to Capetown.

9.00 News; Wives And Daughters
(new series) by Elizabeth
Gaskell, dramatized in nine
parts: (1) Starring Thelma
Whiteley and Angela Plesonsky
9.30 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 With Great Pleasure. Neil Dunn
presents her personal choice of
music and prose. The readers
are Geoffrey Palmer and
Caroline Blacketer. 1

11.00 In Praise of China. The Story
of Claude Muncester (1)

11.15 Faces of China. John Saksweil
tells the story of her visit to
China with the British cultural
attestments (1)

12.00 News; Weather

12.15 Starting Point
ENGLAND WITH with it above
except: 5.55-7.55am Open
University: 8.55 Modern Art
Saturday Show 15 Midweek
interlude 7.35 Civil Liberties
4.00-5.30 Study on 4: 4.00
City Magazine 4.45 A World In
Common 5.00 Back on Course
5.30 Joining In.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.

8.05 Jacques Thibaud: The French
violinist in works by Mozart (1)
8.30 The 15 A. K. A. R. Crocetti
(Sonata in G minor) and
Szymanowski (Fountain of
Aretusae, Op 30).

9.00 News

9.05 Your Concert Choice: Includes
works by Hahn, Nielsen, Beethoven
(piano Sage-Dron), Gounod (S)

REGIONAL TEL

HTV WEST as London except:
Squash 9.30-10.00am 10.00
Ask Oscar! 11.30-12.00 Play Better
Squash. 2.20pm-3.00 Farming Wales.
4.55 Boat Show. 4.15-4.45 The Line on
TV. 5.15-5.45 The Line on TV. 5.45-6.15
The Line on TV. 6.15-6.45 The Line on TV.

headlines.

RIV WALKS 4.15pm-4.45 Males
Mickey.

SCOTCH As London except:
9.25am Bubble, 9.55am
11.10-12.00 Play Better School, 1.00-2.00
University Challenge, 2.00-2.15
2.20-3.00 Mr Martin, 2.38 Over
and Beginners, 3.00 Scoops, 4.00
4.15-4.30 The 1960s, 4.30-5.00
Boys, 5.30-5.50 Sale of the Century,
7.15-8.15 Film: Judith (Sophia Loren),
8.15-8.30 The 1960s, 8.30-9.00
Shooper, 12.25am Closesown.

TYNE TEES As London except:
9.25am Starts, 9.30am-11.00
11.00-11.15 Lookaround, 11.05-12.00
12.00-12.15 The 1960s, 12.15-1.00
Squash, 1.00pm University Challenge
1.30-1.40 Footnot, 2.00-2.15 Little House
in the Big Woods, 2.15-2.30
2.35-3.00 Farm Track, 2.30-3.00
Laurel and Hardy, 7.15-8.15 Film: Judith
(Sophia Loren), 11.00-11.15 To Five, 11.15-11.30 The 1960s, 11.30-11.45
and 12.00-12.15 Film: The 1960s and
Shimshing, 12.00-12.15 Film: The 1960s
12.25Closesown

fightingale.† 9.00 Alexis Komer.† 10.00
Sounds of Jazz † 12.00 midnight Close

CHANNEL As London except:
2.00pm-3.00pm Girls 12.65pm-1.00pm
Starting Point 1.00-1.15pm Up 2.35 live and
my Car 2.15-3.00pm Stars and Boys
Together 3.40-3.55 Silver Spots 4.15-4.45
Bygones 5.00-5.30 Gardens Forgive 7.15-
7.45pm Judy 11.15pm Shelley 11.50
Closdown

GRANADA As London except:
9.25am Miniature Cress
Masterpieces 9.30-10.00 Music of the
11.00 Play Better Sings 11.25 Ap
Kas Kaa 11.30-12.00 This Is Your Right
2.30pm-3.00 On Of The Boys 3.45-
4.15pm The 11.00pm The 11.00pm
Beauty, 5.30-6.00: Jude Of The Century.
7.15-8.15 Film: Judith (Sophia Loren).
11.00pm The 11.00pm The 11.00pm
12.30am Closdown

CENTRAL As London except:
9.25am Professor Kitzel
3.30-10.00 Point Along with Nancy
11.00pm The 11.00pm The 11.00pm
Mr Magoo 2.30-3.00 Burning 3.45-4.45
Flame Trees of Thika 5.00-5.30
Special 5.30-6.00 The Sea of the Century
7.15-8.15 Film: The 11.00pm The 11.00pm
11.00pm The 11.00pm The 11.00pm
12.30am Closdown

TVS As London except: 9.25am-9.30
Cartoon 11.30-12.00 Survival
1.45pm-2.15 Farm Fairs 2.25 University
College 3.45-4.15pm The 11.00pm
Flame Trees of Thika 5.00-5.30 Royal
Family 11.00 The Tube 12.00am Company,
Closdown

Continued on facing page

VHF Radio 2.00pm and 2.50pm with Radio
2. 2.00pm Benny Green, 3.30 Alan Dell
with Sounds Easy 11.00pm
Something Simple, 4.30m Strong
Sound, 5.00-12.00pm With Radio 1.
12.00-5.00pm With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am Newsweek, 6.30 Counterpoint, 7.00
World News, 7.20 News About Britain, 7.45
World News, 8.00 World News, 8.15
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